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THE QUESTION MARK

Volume XII

1957

Published by
The Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association
Boston, Massachusetts

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THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 1957

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume XII, Number 1 January 1957

Publications Committee: Barbara E. Coffey, Jean L. Eaton, Mary A. Hackett, Myron Kaplan, Daniel J. Koury, Felicia J. Langdon, B. Gertrude Wade, Chairman.

Publication date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material: The tenth of each month

EDITORIAL NOTES

The following excerpt comes from a review of Mr. Whitehill's Boston Public Library: A Centennial History which appeared in the Mississippi Valley Historical Review for September, 1956 (p.340):

> ...Unfortunately, the narrative becomes less satisfactory as it approaches the present...The real reason for this decline in interest lies not in any weakness of the author, but in the abrogation by his subject of its position of professional pre-eminence. Events at Bates Hall are no longer as exciting as they once were, for the Boston Public Library, once the morning star of the American public library movement, has become just another large municipal collection, undistinguished from a score of others except for the richness of its traditions and the conservatism of its administration. No modern librarian would look to Copley Square for courageous innovation or imaginative leadership. An analysis of this deterioration and the reasons for it would make a really important contribution to the literature of library history.

This seemingly gratuitous insult comes from the pen of none other than Jesse H. Shera, School of Library Science, Western Reserve University, and author of several well-known books on library science. Coming as it does from a recognized member of the library profession, this opinion has caused a great deal of consternation among members of the staff who have read the review. It raises questions in our minds which are disquieting, it lowers staff morale, and it hurts our self-esteem. We feel that it would help to clear up this unfortunate situation if some authoritative answer were made to Mr. Shera's accusations. Our dignity as members of the staff of the B. P. L. justifies our expectation of such an answer, and we sincerely hope, therefore, that the Publications Committee succeeding us will be willing to cooperate by printing whatever reply the administration of the library feels it can give us.

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

EDITOR'S NOTE: The above editorial appears by majority vote of the Publications Committee, Mary A. Hackett and the Chairman dissenting from its publication.

PERSONNEL NOTES

New Employees

George A. Bolfiore, Fine Arts Department
Eugene B. Rowler, Book Stack Service
William F. Callahan, Central Charging Records

Transferred

Mrs. Eleanora N. Chaplik - from Branch Librarian, Washington Village Branch Library to Branch Librarian, Codman Square Branch Library
Helen N. Connell - from Neponset Branch Library to South Boston Branch Library
Margaret A. Howey - from Neponset Branch Library to Roslindale Branch Library
Madalene D. Holt - from Branch Librarian, Neponset Branch Library to Branch Librarian, Washington Village Branch
Gladys R. White - from Branch Librarian, Codman Square Branch Library to Chief, Central Book Stock for Home Reading and Community Services

Marriages

Gracemarie V. Alfe - East Boston Branch Library to Francis J. LeBlanc on November 24, 1956
Ellen T. Buckley - Adams Street Branch Library to Thomas C. Murphy, Jr., on December 29, 1956

Resignations

Mrs. Marion S. Dubrawski - Charlestown Branch Library - to remain at home.
Mrs. Mary-Elizabeth Huntington - Parker Hill Branch Library - to remain at home.
Patricia L. Leahy - Roslindale Branch Library - to be married and move to California
Mrs. Maureen T. White - Book Stack Service - to remain at home.

Christmas Engagements

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Mary O'Malley, Central Charging Records to Patrick Mannion.
Felicia J. Langdon, Audio-Visual Department, engaged to Euclid J. Peltier, Chief of the Audio-Visual Department
Madeline McManus, Bookmobile, became engaged to Paul McGourty.
Hilda Marie (Ginger) Dahl of the Coffee Shop became engaged on Christmas Day to Bob Mastrangelo. Ginger's ring will be on exhibit in the Coffee Shop every day from nine to six.

NEW ARRIVALS

Central Charging welcomes its newest employee, friendly Robert E. Graham. A student at Boston College Intown where he is in his junior year, Bob has many outside interests, including photography and boating and swimming. His chief hobby is classical music. He may be a bachelor now, but we feel that when the right gal comes along Bob could have his mind changed.

*

Rosemarie LaCedra, the girl who operates the new electric typewriter in Cataloging and Classification, RRS, hails from East Boston. She is a graduate of Girls High School where she took a business course. Although her interests include dancing, bowling, and ice-skating, she also enjoys cooking -- especially Italian foods. Rosemarie, a cousin of Ronald Arigo in Central Charging, says she likes library work very much.

*

Fellow workers in the Office of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services are pleased to welcome a true baseball fan -- Barbara J. Whitledge of Natick. Barbara, who graduated from Bryant and Stratton, has already purchased her season's ticket for next year's Red Sox games. She is eagerly awaiting the return of her favorite player, Don Budden, who is now in the army. But baseball isn't Barbara's only interest -- she says she "staggers" in every Thursday morning after an evening of square dancing. Roller skating and bowling are also pastimes for this active girl.

THE TRADING POST

Are you a beginning stamp collector? Or have you a son or daughter who is taking up this hobby? Miss Ruth Sather, formerly First Assistant at Codman Square, would be delighted to trade her duplicates with any member of the staff who wishes to get in touch with her. Miss Sather is now at the Boston Home for Incurables, 2049 Dorchester Avenue, Dorchester, Massachusetts.

ALUMNI NOTE

Frank N. Jones, who some years ago served as Deputy Supervisor of Special Reference at the BPL, was recently appointed Director of the Peabody Institute Library in Baltimore.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

At the regular meeting of the Executive Board, 8 January 1957, it was voted: "The Executive Board went on record as being deeply disturbed over the failure of the Director to put into effect the action promised in his letter to the President, dated 9 August 1956." This letter appeared in the PRESIDENT'S NOTES in the August issue of the QUESTION MARK and concluded with the following paragraph:

> I send this letter by way of interim report, in order that you may be informed that the recommendation of the Professional Staff Association in respect to the situation of Assistants-in-Charge has had approval for being put into effect as promptly in the latter part of the fiscal year of 1956 as the situation of the personnel budget may permit.

Within an hour or so after the conclusion of the Executive Board meeting, the following letter was received from the Director:

8 January 1957

Dear Mr. Rains:

My presentation to the Trustees concerning the remuneration of individuals who serve as Assistants-in-Charge was made in accordance with the recommendation of the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association.

The Trustees approved the principles on which the proposal was based and agreed that it should be used for the future when instances should arise to make necessary the designation of an individual as Assistant-in-Charge. The decision to make the proposal effective for the future was based on (1) the fact that most of the existing instances were about to be terminated by the making of appointments and (2) the fact that the few remaining instances would be included in the consideration to be given to those categories for whom special presentations had been made to the library administration.

Originally it was believed that it would be possible to give consideration to all of these in the fiscal year 1956. However, action did not prove possible, even though there was an unused balance in the Personal Service Account. This balance, which resulted from the inability of the Library to find qualified candidates for present vacancies, remained a budget commitment for 1956 and funds for filling these vacancies continue to be a commitment for the 1957 budget. These funds could not therefore be used for salary revision for the several categories mentioned above.

For your information, I wish to state that the entire situation as to salaries and wages in the Library is the subject of the agenda for the January 18 meeting of the Trustees.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) Milton E. Lord
Director

Mr Louis Rains
President, Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

The President, upon receipt of the letter, called a special meeting of the Executive Board for the following morning, 9 January 1957, to determine whether or not the Board wished to change its resolution of the previous day in the light of the information contained in the Director's letter of January 8. The Executive Board voted to let stand without change its vote of the previous day.

Because of his resignation from the Library service, the name of Edward Cullinane has been withdrawn from candidacy for the Professional Staff member of the Executive Board to be elected in 1957. We thank Mr. Cullinane for his willingness to serve the Association, and wish him success in his career as a student.

Mr. Frank P. Bruno, Patent Room, has been named Chairman of the Elections Committee, and Louis Polishook, Central Charging Records, has been appointed Chairman of the Auditing Committee.

The cloak of elegance now sported by the Coffee Shop is due to the initiative and efforts of Thomas Manning, Exhibits Office, in securing, framing and hanging the colorful Japanese prints which serenely observe the comings, goings and

and tarryings of the staff. Our thanks to Mr. Manning and all those who aided his efforts to bring a little color and culture into our lives.

Since this is the last of the PRESIDENT'S NOTES to appear over my signature, I wish to take this opportunity to thank publicly those of you who have done so much to contribute to the success of the Association's programs during the past year.

Louis Rains

Calendar of Events

January 18. Professional Staff Association, Annual Business Meeting and Election of Officers. Lecture Hall, Central Library, 9 a.m.

January 29-February 2. ALA Midwinter Meeting, Chicago.

January 30. S.L.A. Dinner meeting at the M.I.T. Faculty Club. Guest Speaker-Kathleen Kinder, President, S.L.A.

Births

A son, John Hays, to Mr. and Mrs. John Michael Reddy on December 29. Mrs. Reddy is the former Sigrid Robinson of Open Shelf.

Mr. and Mrs. John M. Carroll are the proud parents of a fourth son, Joseph Fenwick, born January 7, 1957.

Welcome Back

To Gerald Ball, Chief, Book Purchasing Department, and to B. Joseph O'Neill, Periodical Department, both of whom were recently injured in an automobile accident.

A Speedy Recovery

To Ruth Cannell, Office of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services, who is recuperating at home from a recent operation.

To Elizabeth M. Gordon, Supervisor of Work with Children, Division of Home Reading and Community Services, who is confined to her home by illness.

To Albert L. Carpenter, Special Assistant, Division of Home Reading and Community Services, now recuperating at his home in Jamaica Plain.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TEA

On Thursday afternoon, December 20, what seemed to be a record-breaking number of staff members attended the annual Christmas tea which was held in the Women's Lounge. The room had been attractively decorated by the Women's House Committee for the holiday season.

As Chairman of the committee in charge, Mrs Bertha S. Keswick, Branch Issue, had chosen as the nucleus of her committee the members of the Bessie L. Doherty Memorial Committee, inasmuch as the brass coffee urn and trays given by the staff in memory of Miss Doherty were used for the first time at this social function. Following along this same line of thought, several of the pourers were special friends of Miss Doherty.

Cordially welcomed back were retired members of the staff: M. Therese Campbell Orlando C. Davis, George H. Earley, Mrs Minerva Elliott, Flora B. Ennis, Mrs. Frances McG. Kelley, Jean B. Lay, William J. Mulloney, Patrick J. Reilly, Morris J. Rosenberg, and George C. Johnson.

Delicious homemade cookies and cakes, including an artistically decorated cake with a choir boy and his open book made by Mrs. George Loncich (these decorated cakes are now as much a part of Christmas as the party itself!), piping hot coffee and tea, discreetly placed mistletoe, laughter and good fellowship--all these were in the true Christmas spirit, which filled the room and overflowed into the halls outside. Something more was added this year in the form of Christmas carols sung to the accompaniment of music played on a Celesta. All who participated in any way in this party left it with a warm glow of good will toward their fellow workers and the B.P.L.

Sarah M. Usher

FURTHER CELEBRATION

On the 21st of December the Men's Lunch Room was the scene of the annual Men's Open House. Coffee and doughnuts were served and music was provided for dancing. All who attended appeared to enjoy themselves. The Men's House Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all those whose cooperation and help made this affair a success. A special vote of thanks to Mrs Keswick for making the coffee,

to Ed Maynard for acting as "Disc Jockey" and to the night custodians for the excellent cleaning job done the night before.

Robert F. Ferris
Chairman, Men's House Committee

THANKS TO OUR MUSICIANS

On Friday afternoon, December 21, 1956, Central Library enjoyed its annual round of Christmas carols. This year the instrumentalists were joined by four singers: Aletha Doolittle Munro, soprano, Music; Veronica Yotts, mezzo-soprano, Office of Home Reading; Edward Munro, tenor, Patent Room; and Maurice Carbonneau, baritone, Patent Room. The accompanying instrumentalists were Louis Ugalde, violin, Rare Book; Martin Waters, trumpet, History; and Dan Koury, celesta, Music. The caroling started in the lobby where many members of the staff and public joined in the singing. From there the group toured the building, spreading Christmas cheer (spiritual variety) wherever they went. The warm reception accorded the carols seems to assure us that the custom will be observed for many years to come.

BRANCH NOTES

Codman Square

The staff of Codman Square said goodbye to Miss Gladys White at a dinner party held at the Cathay House on Friday, December 28, 1956. Miss White was presented with a gift certificate and an orchid corsage. Miss White, former librarian at Codman Square, has joined the ranks at Central to take the position of Chief of the Central Book Stock for Home Reading Services. Among the well-wishers present at the party were former staff members, Mrs. Mary Noone, Mrs Louise Kenneally, Mrs Florence Bickford and Catherine Hannon. Miss White's friends at Codman Square hope that she will be very happy at her new post.

Virginia Dalton

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Dorchester

December 13th marked the date of the annual Christmas party at the Dorchester Branch. Actually it turned out to be an "Open House" and an Alumni party combined, for, besides the current staff, there were a number of ex-staff members who dropped in after work or during supper hours to exchange Christmas wishes and to enjoy the buffet supper spread on a long table in the "upstairs staff room". Attractively decorated with red and green by the extras, the room looked warm and cozy with its candlelight and bountiful table whose center-piece was a huge frosted Christmas cake, gift of Miss Lisette Tanck for the occasion. Cold cuts, salads, finger sandwiches, cookies, coffee and candy were also on the menu, and no one went home hungry, we hope. Gifts, cards and grabs were exchanged, but the best part was the opportunity to get together again with old friends. Among the "alumni" present were Margaret Morgan, Connolly Branch; Rosemarie DeSimone, also of Connolly; Beatrice Frederick, Open Shelf, Children's Room; Eleanor O'Leary, South Boston, Pat Vacca, Bookmobile, Peggy Holzman, Mary McPherson, Ann Sullivan, all now teaching; and Ellen Buckley, Adams St.

*

West End

As a climax to Children's Book Week festivities at West End, a party was held in the lecture hall, December 15th, at which reading certificates and book prizes were awarded members of the Balloting for Books Summer Reading Club. The noted author, Mr Sigmund Lavine, a guest at the program, spoke on the subject, "How a book is written." The children were immensely interested by Mr. Lavine's account of his adventures preceding the publication of each of his books. A lively discussion followed Mr. Lavine's talk, as the children recounted the club's activities.

On Thursday evening, December 20th, the Beth Jacob Women's Club of the West End, held one of their regular monthly meetings at the West End Branch. This year, a group of about thirty women heard Miss Goldstein evaluate the latest books in adult and juvenile Judaica.

On Friday evening, December 21st, West End held a reception for a local young author, Mr Joseph Caruso, a resident of the district and a regular patron of the Branch, on the occasion of the publication of his novel, The Priest. Present were many prominent Bostonians in various fields of civic leadership. Mr. Joseph Caruso spoke on challenges facing the Italian writer in America.

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of the articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

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To the Soap Box:

As a past president of the B.P.L.P.S.A. and past Editor of The Question Mark, I should like to make a few comments relative to the unsigned letter which appeared in the main body of the December, 1956, Question Mark. Since the letter appears anonymously, it is possible to discuss it quite impersonally. The contents of the letter label it unquestionably as Soap Box material. It could not be put in the Soap Box for two reasons: (a) the writer is not a member of the Association (according to the introductory note) and the Soap Box is open only to Association members; (b) it was too long (Soap Box letters are limited to three hundred words). Doubtless there will be comments on the ideas presented in this letter. I leave such comments to others. I would rather like to question the advisability of including the letter in The Question Mark. If the contents labeled the letter Soap Box material yet it could not be placed in the Soap Box section, should it have been accepted by the Publications Committee? Does their action automatically open the door of The Question Mark to any disgruntled staff member who wishes to "blow off steam", even though he (or she) may not be a member of the Association? Will The Question Mark still be the "voice" of the B.P.L.P.S.A.? Inclusion of this letter constitutes a departure from precedent which should be brought to the attention of the Association as a whole and which requires action on the part of the Association, or of the Executive Board, to clarify the obligations of the Publications Committee concerning the inclusion of material submitted by non-members of the Association, in the official organ of the Association.

Edna G. Peck

Dear Editor:

As comforting reading for those Assistants-in-Charge who still await their raises, may I recommend:
Psalms, vi, 3 and Revelation vi, 10

Eamon McDonough

To the Soap Box:

There seems to be concern in certain quarters over one Dr. Shera's review of Mr. Whitehill's Centennial History.

Shera went out of his way to read into a distinguished work implications that weren't there. A background of research work and authorship of works in library subjects may make a good armchair librarian. It does not make for the best administrator able to cope with continuous bombardment of problems common to the operation of large city libraries.

As a member of the staff for almost 20 years, observing both the wise and the not-so-wise attempts at meeting these problems, I agree with Prof. Moody's review in ACRL of November, 1956, in which he says:

"Anyone who has watched the ingenious changes taking place under the present capable director, Milton E. Lord, will better appreciate the extraordinary complexity of the problems created by the necessity of defrosting an architectural

iceberg. Branch libraries, bookmobiles, the dual emphasis upon research facilities and services to the reading needs of the general public have their proper parts..."

AD MULTOS ANNOS!

Dear Editor:

In the President's Notes of the August 1956 Question Mark appeared a letter from the Director dated August 9, 1956, indicating that a recommendation for remuneration of Assistants-in-Charge had been presented to the Trustees and approved by them, to be put into effect "as early after July 1, 1956, as the budgetary situation for the current year would permit." It is now January, 1957. I hope the New Year is not to begin on a note of broken resolution!!

DISILLUSIONED

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

In the December issue of "The Question Mark" there is a reference under "New Books in the Staff Library" to a new publication authored by Jesse H. Shera. It is an excellent choice for inclusion, partly because of Mr. Shera's outstanding reputation as a librarian, but more because its acceptance indicates fair-mindedness in evaluation regardless of the indignation we must naturally feel towards Mr. Shera's own evaluation of the present-day BPL. (Published in the Mississippi Valley Historical Review.)

Certainly we hope that his criticism is not entirely correct and, even though we admit a certain feeling of inadequacy and frustration, we are glad to see that at least the Library's Book Selection policies are sufficeintly unprejudiced and honest to exemplify its belief in "freedom of the press", to prove its integrity in supporting the much-vaunted librarians' "Bill of Rights", and to recognize real ability where it does exist.

GEOFFREY

To the Soap Box:

Many of our staff members have been privileged to serve on or head committees in our state and our national library associations. From any viewpoint, it appears desirable that the Boston Public Library be so represented whenever the opportunity is presented. Although I realize I am not the first to do so, I would like to raise again the question of the possibility of our Trustees establishing a fund to finance - at least in part - the expenses incurred when one of our staff members in such a position finds it absolutely necessary to attend a convention held at a long distance away from Boston. Since these people go to Chicago, Kansas City or wherever the convention may be on our behalf, shouldn't we assume part of the financial responsibility? The five yearly grants for attendants at the A. L. A. annual convention, plus the recently adopted measure of payment toward the expenses of the Professional Staff Association president, are deeply appreciated by staff members. However, there are still individuals left who find the required financial obligations of their official capacities difficult to meet.

B. Gertrude Wade

A thousand miles a minute,
  Is fearful speed of Earth,
Awhirl upon her axis,
  In billion mile berth.

Stars and planets snicker,
  Contemptuous as we pass-
What a puny upstart
  To their huger mass.

Yet in the Maker's circle,
  The Earth's in central place,
His masterpiece her cargo-
  The wondrous human race.

Harry Andrews

To the Soap Box:

In The Question Mark for December, the Publications Committee departed drastically, and I feel unwisely, from the Soap Box policy (see the beginning of each Soap Box column) which has been in effect for years, which has proved to be a sound policy, and which previous Committees have followed without exception. The Committee deviated from the policy in three definite ways:

1. It accepted a letter with Soap Box content from a non-member of the Association who is not eligible to

submit material to the Soap Box.

2. It accepted this letter which exceeded 300 words, the maximum set for Soap Box.
3. Having accepted a letter which failed to meet two standards, the Committee apparently reasoned that it could get around these two points by printing the letter (without identification) in the main body of the paper.

If the Soap Box is to fulfill the purpose for which it was created, Association members, I believe, should demand of their Publications Committees that they adhere strictly--and without exception--to the politices in effect during their terms of office.

Sarah M. Usher

To the Editor:

It is understandable that the Publications Committee should feel chagrined at the lack of response from members of the Association to its pleas for ideas and comments as expressed in the editorial columns of the December issue of the Question Mark. It is therefore without regard to the merits of the persuasive but unsigned letter from a non-member of the Association that appeared in the same editorial columns of that issue that we question the propriety of publishing this letter or any such letter proposing positive action to be taken by the Association without identifying the writer. As those of us who have served the Association in the past as president, editor and member of Executive Board and committees are particularly aware, members of the Association are often jealous of "their right to know", and on occasion suspicious of what they do not know or have not been told - and rightly so. Certainly there is nothing in this particular letter so carefully reasoned and reasonable, and apparently so conciliatory and disinterested in tone that the writer should wish anonymity. Why then did the Publications Committee choose to withold the name of the writer and so establish a questionable precedent for the future? It is the understanding of this writer as a former editor of the Question Mark that no columns of the publication are open to unsigned contributions of this nature except the Soap Box and that, of course, only to members of the Association.

Louisa S. Metcalf

(Editor's Note: In publishing the letter in question, the Committee were exercising their perogative to select for your consideration ideas which they consider worthy of discussion, regardless of the source. The precedent we follow is our own and hitherto uncontested: Cf. Sept. issue, p. 2-6.)

To the Editor:

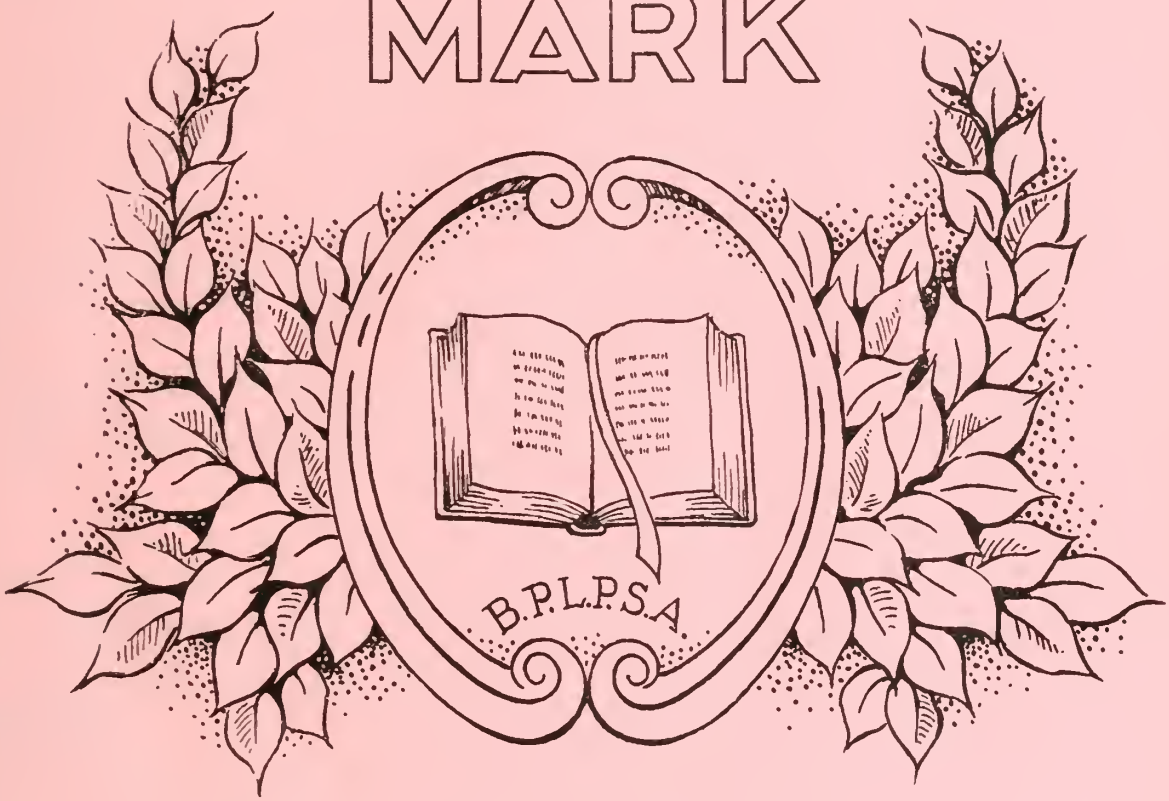
The proposals embodied in the letter which you published on Page 2 of the December issue were a refreshing contrast to the customary grumblings of the Soap Box. This is the first indication, since the fine articles presenting plans for revision of the sub-professional system, that your readers can contribute original ideas as well as negative criticism. Coming as it does from a source outside the PSA it also shows clearly that concern for the welfare of the BPL is not an exclusive property of the Bibliothecal staff. Our own peculiar brand of segregation has continued long enough! When will we realize that efficient service to the public depends as much on the people who keep the building warm or keep the lights shining as it does upon the efforts of the professionals? If that service is to be highly successful there must be complete understanding and cooperation among all contributing individuals - not just among a few individuals at the top of the pyramid. We all depend on the same institution for livelihood and we should all have the same common purpose: service to the public. This being the case, there are bound to be some problems, needs, trials and tribulations which we all share and which we could more successfully consider and discuss if we all work together. I am not alone in hoping that 1957 will produce some constructive effort to develop a staff comprised of representatives from the existing separate groups. It's the same old story we have always known: two heads are better than one!

To the Editor:

Congratulations on your publication of a letter from a correspondent who suggests cooperation without the attachment of a price tag. I refer, obviously, to the letter from a source unattached to the PSA. The viewpoint of the writer seems to be somewhat more intelligently sympathetic to even our own needs than is that of many of our own members. Too often we seem to be more interested in methods of procedure than in actual accomplishments.

Louis M. Ugalde

THE Question MARK



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PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY 1957

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume XII, Number 2 February 1957

Publications Committee: Charles J. Gillis, Emilia Lange, Catherine D. O'Halloran, B. Joseph O'Neil, Claire P. O'Toole, Sarah Richman, Gerald L. Ball, Chairman

Publication date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material: The tenth of each month

EDITORIAL NOTES

If you look at the masthead you will note that there are different names from those on the last issue, but really none are new to the library service. We feel that the theme of the editorials we are pledged to write are best expressed in Article II of the Constitution, namely, that it shall be the object of the Association a) to foster professional librarianship; b) to further the common interest of the bibliothecal staff; c) to promote greater efficiency in library service. We will try to work closely with the Executive Board and to help promote their policies, as well as to advocate changes which we ourselves believe beneficial to the staff as a whole. Since it appears that the current activity of the present Executive Board deals for the most part with much needed salary revisions, this will be a labor of love.

Naturally the Soap Box will be retained, and a sincere, objective effort will be made to do something practical wherever possible, in regard to all legitimate complaints.

To enable us to do this we ask the help of all our members. Every member should feel compelled to send either directly to the Editor or through the staff representatives ideas that the members wish to share with fellow Association members.

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

PERSONNEL NOTES

New Employees

Patricia A. Ashe, Office of Records, Files, Statistics
Bernard L. Breskin, Egleston
Mrs Doreen E. Campbell, Book Stack Service
Mary E. Castellano, Rare Book
Don DelMar, Audio-Visual
Frank Lavine, West End
Mrs Ann H. Parziale, Catalog and Classification, (R and RS)
Elaine Van Ravensway, Book Stack Service
John C. Walton, Office of Records, Files, Statistics

Transferred

Mrs Ruth F. Conroy, from Washington Village to Central Charging Records
Norma A. Lowery, from South End to Parker Hill
Helen J. Nicholas, from West End to Washington Village
Ellen Richwagen, from North End to South End
Gilda Tecce, from Hyde Park to North End
Mrs Sydney S. Whitman, from Codman Square to Central Charging Records

Resignations

Mrs Laura V. Abate, Office of the Division of Reference and Research Services, to remain at home
Edward J. Cullinane, Connolly, to attend the Simmons College, School of Library Science
Mrs Anitra B. Kolenkow, Bookmobile, to study at Harvard University
Mrs Josephine A. Murphy, Office of Records, Files, Statistics, to remain at home
Sheila W. Pierce, Central Charging Records, to accept another position, Assistant Librarian, Metcalf and Eddy Engineering Firm
Julia P. Talanian, Office of the Division of Reference and Research Services, to accept another position

MEET OUR NEW ARRIVALS

Mrs Anna Helen Parziale, of Reference Catalog, is a graduate of Williams Business College in Brockton. She lives in East Boston. Beside being an accomplished writer and artist, Mrs Parziale is an excellent cook. She can top off a mouth-watering meal of lasagna with a serving of nusu (Finnish coffee cake).

Elaine Van Ravensway (Book Stack Service), a resident of Brookline, misses her native hills around Albany, New York, and would like some advice on local skiing from some of our winter out-door sports enthusiasts. After graduating from Delmar High School she attended Boston University's College of General Education. Her hobbies are reading and playing the piano.

John C. Walton (Records, Files and Statistics), of Taunton is our new messenger. After graduating from Coyle High School he studied at Stonehill College in North Easton where he took part in dramatics. Jack, who taught at Middleboro High School, English Department, plans to complete his education at Boston College.

NEW ENGLAND NEWS COMPANY

This firm has moved to a site near the Brookline Village Branch of New England Food Fair off Harvard Street, Brookline. The address is 20 Webster Place, Brookline 46, Massachusetts and the telephone number is Be 2 - 8025.

INTERESTING GIFT

James S. Kennedy (Book Stack Service) has presented the Library with "Brunswick Troops in the British Service during the American Revolution" written by his daughter, Marie Rita Kennedy of Mt. Bowdoin. It is a graphic presentation, written as part of Miss Kennedy's requirement for a Boston College Master's Degree in History, of a little known phase of our struggle for independence and could easily be revamped into a best seller.

Incidentally, Mr. Kennedy's previous gift entitled "The Port of Boston" is one of our Statistical Department's most frequently consulted works on that subject. This was written by his son, Francis X. Kennedy, a former B.P.L.'er, who is presently employed in Oklahoma City.

HAPPY TRAINING!!

Ronald Conant, whose home office is Records, Files, Statistics, but who serves the whole library building as he delivers mail twice daily to each unit, is at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, with the National Guard. He left Boston on Sunday, February 3, and expects to return to work at the end of a six months' period of training.

His going brought about a situation unprecedented in the thirteen-year-history of the office--all three full-time assistants leaving within three months' time, Two who had left earlier -- Maria Mechini, to work for the Italian Airlines, and Josephine Murphy, to stay home and keep house for her newly-acquired husband, returned on Friday, February first, to join Miss Usher and Ronald at lunch at the Darbury Room. Inasmuch as rumor has it that the Army supplies everything it believes its "guests" will need during their six months' visit, Ronald's "office family" presented him with money with which to buy something he would choose himself.

The good wishes of all his many friends throughout the building are with him until he returns.

THE SOCIAL WHIRL

On Thursday, January 18 Miss Usher and Josephine Murphy's "lunch buddies" gathered at the Darbury Room to say farewell to Jo on the occasion of her resigning in order to devote full time to her new career, homemaking. Jo's library friends presented her with an orchid, a piece of luggage, a new wallet and a lucky silver dollar! We shall all miss Jo's warm friendliness and steady dependability in the days to come but wish her a very full and happy life as full-time homemaker, par excellence!

CONGRATULATIONS

To Edna G. Peck, Book Selection, H. R. & C. S., who has been appointed Chairman, Notable Books Council, American Library Association, for 1957.

CARE

Hungarian refugees are in need of our continued help through CARE. $1.00 Food Crusade packages are still available.

Special Committee for CARE

A. L. A. MIDWINTER MEETING

January 29 - February 2, 1957

Following a well established custom, the American Library Association Midwinter meeting, 1957, convened at the Edgewater Beach Hotel, Chicago. 1328 delegates were registered. The air of consecreated intensity that pervaded the huge hotel testified to the fact that Midwinter is a working conference, even the casual breakfast, luncheon and dinner turned into an unofficial committee meeting or policy forming conclave. Since ninety-nine groups were listed as participants, a detailed account would be exhausting for all concerned even if it were possible, which it is not since many sessions were closed meetings. Sufficient for those interested is a listing of the highlights.

The Conference as a whole was deeply concerned with the re-organization program. The implementation of this program received a body blow when President Shaw, at the Council meeting Thursday evening, January 31, refused to accept the report of the Committee on Organization, headed by John S. Richards, Past-President, American Library Association and Librarian, Seattle Public Library.

A topic of almost equal interest to all the delegates was the status quo of the Library Services Act. Several reports of this bill were given and one meeting, Tuesday, January 29 was devoted exclusively to the Act. Julia D. Bennett, A. L. A., Washington office, reported the sad fact that only $3,000,000 had been allocated by the President for the first complete fiscal year of the Act, rather than the $7,500,000 which the act allows. She made a fervent plea that all the library personnel should urge their citizens to contact the members of the House of Representatives from their districts and alert them to the urgent need of seeking their support for the full implementation of the Act from the members of the Education Sub-Committee of the Department of Health, Welfare and Education of the House of Representatives for each five years of its short life. Otherwise Miss Bennett pointed out, the Act cannot carry out its objectives of bringing greater library service to rural America.

Library work as a career and recruiting received a much needed impetus from two sources. The New York Life Insurance Company will carry a double spread in a spring issue of a national magazine featuring by text and pictures Should your child become a librarian? Reprints will be available. As a second boost, H. W. Wilson Company has made available a scholarship of $500 to each of ten accredited library schools per calendar year beginning in 1957. The schools were chosen by a drawing by a young university student, at the Membership Meeting, Thursday morning. Simmons Library School was twenty-fifth in the drawing and thus is eligible to receive one of the $500 grants during the third year, 1959.

Operation Library designed to place the public library before the people in a more dramatic and favorable light than has been done heretofore, was presented by Arthur W. Parsons, Librarian, Omaha Public Library, Vice-President and President elect of the Association of Public Libraries. Mr Parsons as well as others cited the active part played by Jaycees (members of the Junior Chamber of Commerce) all over the country in carrying out the objective of Operation Library.

Books were highlighted by the release at the membership meeting of two important national booklists: Notable Books of 1956, compiled by the Notable Books Council under the chairmanship of Bernard W. Van Horne, Librarian, Portland (Wash.) Public Library and Interesting Adult Books of 1956 for Young People, prepared by Mrs Audrey Biel, Detroit Public Library, as Chairman of the A. Y. P. L. Book Selection Committee.

Organization and implementation were the keynotes of the newly formed Adult Education Division which highlighted the Division's concern for the development of a common understanding of library adult education within and without the profession as well as a study of the objectives of the Division. The reorganization of A.L.A. was also foremost on the agenda in board meetings of C.L.A. (Childrens Library Association) and A.Y.P.L. (Association of Young People's Librarians). This reorganization when implemented will bring the public library members of these two associations into the Association of Public Libraries, where they logically belong, and through which they can most effectively carry out the objectives of the two specialized associations.

The Boston Public Library was represented at the Conference by Milton E. Lord,

Director, Past President of A.L.A. and currently member of A.L.A. Committee on Relations with Publishers, and member of Council; Muriel C. Javelin, Deputy Supervisor of Work with Adults, who is Chairman of the Executive Board of Adult Education Division and Chairman of the Adult Education Organization Committee, and is now member of PEBCO (Program Evaluation and Budget Committee) for A.L.A. and member of Council; Virginia Haviland, Readers Advisor for Children who was a member of the A.L.A. Committee on Organization (familiarly termed Coo) and member of the Executive Board of the Childrens Library Association; and Edna G. Peck, Chief of Book Selection, H.R.S., incoming Chairman of the Notable Books Council, of the Association of Public Libraries.

EDNA G. PECK

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 16	Catholic Library Association sponsors a Catholic Book Meeting in New England Mutual Hall at 2:00 PM.
February 20	Men's Librarian Club meeting at Creogh Research Library, St. John's Seminary, Brighton, at 6:00 PM.
February 25	Special Library Association will hold its Education Meeting at Lamont Library, Harvard University.
February 27	Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association. The combined February meeting and reception to new officers to be held in the Lecture Hall of the Central Library at 8:00 PM.

Welcome to new members of BPLPSA

Mrs Suzanne Fishman, South Boston
Gerard La Centra, Jr., Kirstein
Greta H. Sharp, Hyde Park

THE LIBRARIAN

The swift night air flows in upon her,
Sweeping down the book-lined aisles,
And, open to some golden dawn, her
Eyes grow gentle and she smiles.
The harsh stack light her dark braids
crowning,
At last recalls her to herself.
She puts the poems of Mrs. Browning
Firmly on the proper shelf.

Patricia Duff McGinley
(New York Times
1/13/57)

MEN'S LIBRARIANS CLUB

The February meeting to be held at the Creogh Research Library, St. John's Seminary on Wednesday, February 20, 1957 will be honored by the presence of His Excellency, Archbishop Richard J. Cushing.

The spring meeting to be held in late April or early May will be in our own Lecture Hall. Mr Lord has been able to secure Frederic G. Melcher, Editor of Publishers Weekly who will reminisce of his early days as a bookseller in Boston.

CALLING ALL B.P.L.P.S.A. MEMBERS (AND FRIENDS)!

Are you tired, bored, in need of a midwinter vacation? Would you like to share some new and exciting adventures? Well, now hear this....

Reserve Wednesday, February 27, 1957 for a surprise-filled evening of "FUN AND FOOD WITH A FOREIGN FLAIR"-- The Professional Staff Association February meeting and the Reception to Officers will be held on that night in the Lecture Hall of the Central Library at 8 p.m.

Members of our own "family" from the B.P.L. staff, who have traveled to faraway places will share their many delightful experiences with us via an informal discussion led by our charming Pauline Winnick. Edna Peck, Sarah Richman, Bridie Stotz, John Alden and Francis Curry will take us along on wings of words to the fascinating shores of Scotland, Switzerland, Austria, Israel and Italy, England and Ireland, Mexico and Guatamala, and cross-country U.S.A. Ed Peltier and the Entertainment Committee will provide delicious, exotic foods that are imported from the kitchens of our own "family" members who are of various nationality backgrounds, and the entire Elliot Room will be transformed into an international gallery with panoramic scenic views, colorful displays of souveniers and artcrafts, and mouth-watering recipes and menus from many lands.

Come, meet your international neighbors, your B.P.L. co-workers and your new P.S.A. officers at the special program on Wednesday, February 27--"FUN AND FOOD FOR TRAVELERS".

LINDA M. PAGLIUCA
CHAIRMAN, PROGRAM
COMMITTEE

P. S. Would you like to join in the fun? Donations of "foreign" refreshments will be welcomed by Mr Peltier, Audio-Visual and to display souveniers, see Miss Bettina Coletti in Bates Hall.

AHOY, FORMER MEMORIALITES!!!

The following letter reached the Memorial Branch several days ago. If you are one of the "pleasant" librarians, take a bow. If you recall the name of the book requested, please forward it to the Memorial Branch. Mrs Bernard Casher who sent the letter also included a self-addressed, stamped envelope for the reply. Unfortunately, the book is no longer in the branch.

112 East Leavitt Street
Skowhegan, Maine
January 1, 1957

Dear Librarian,

Please forgive me for bothering you with a strange request; I wonder if it would be possible to ascertain the title, publisher, etc., of a certain little French songbook which I used to borrow in 1939-40 when I lived in Roxbury. The book contained French nursery songs, words and music, and I have a faint recollection that the title contained the word "bouquet", but am not sure. The illustrations were old-fashioned as if the book were an old one, even in those days. The book was short and wide. One of the songs in the front of the book was:

Il etait un bergere,
Ron, ron ron, petit patapon,
Il etait un bergere,
Qui gardait ses moutons, tons, tons
Qui gardait ses moutons.

Il fit un fromage,
Ron, ron ron, petit patapon, etc.

The book enchanted my 2-year old son who is now a junior in college), and I have frustrated some of my small relatives becuase I sing snatches of some of the songs to them but cannot remember the rest. I would like very much to buy a copy of this book if possible. It was a charming collection, and I have always regretted that I did not buy a copy, years ago.

I do not recall the names of the librarians who were on duty when I lived in Roxbury, but I send good thoughts in their direction wherever they are. They were very pleasant and made my visits to the library my bright spot in life at a time when I was bedevilled by serious illness at home. My son was only two but a bookworm and the librarians used to "borrow" him, take him into their inner office where he used to recite for them, "The One-Hoss Shay," Kipling's "Recessional" etc.. ..Also, on every visit, he would solemnly recite the pledge of allegiance while standing at attention at the outer desk on which stood a tiny flag! We all had a good laugh over him!

Thank you very much indeed for your trouble. I enclose a stamped envelope for your reply.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Rebecca Casher
(Mrs Bernard Casher)

STAFF ON AIR AND IN PRINT

Zoltan Haraszti appeared on Channel 4 "Dimensions" January 13, 1957 and was guest of honor at Pen Club (New York) meeting of January 21, 1957.

The Boston Herald, January 20, 1957 carried a feature article by Fred Brady in which Zoltan Haraszti and his Rare Book Department were highly commended.

John Eliot Alden, Rare Book, wrote an article on handwriting for the January 12, 1957 issue of the Boston Pilot. He also wrote an article on Nathaniel Hawthorne in the winter issue of The Book Collector, published in London.

NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Non-Fiction

Allen, Fred
Much ado about me
Boston, Little, Brown, 1956

Anderson, Marion
My Lord, what a morning.
N. Y., Viking, 1956

Baldridge, Letitia
Roman candle.
Boston, Houghton, 1956

Blackington, A. H.
More Yankee yarns.
N. Y., Dodd, Mead, 1956

Bowles, Cynthia
At home in India.
N. Y., Harcourt, 1956

Dunn, Robert
World alive.
N. Y., Crown, 1956

Englebert, Omer
The last of the conquistadors, Junipero Serra.
N. Y., Harcourt, 1956

Fife, Dale
Weddings in the family.
N. Y., Farrar, 1956

Hutchinson, E. H.
Violent truce.
N. Y., Devin-Adair, 1956

Jones, Dorothea
Washington is wonderful.
N. Y., Harper, 1956

Mardikian, G. M.
Song of America.
N. Y., McGraw, 1956

Seldes, G. V.
The public arts.
N. Y., Simon and Schuster, 1956

Tharp, Louise
Three saints and a sinner.
Boston, Little, Brown, 1956

Wilson, Colin
The outsider.
Boston, Houghton, 1956

Windsor, Wallis
The heart has its reasons.
N. Y., McKay, 1956

FICTION

Godden, Jon
The seven islands.
N. Y., Knopf, 1956

Hickling, Hugh
Falconer's voyage.
Boston, Houghton, 1956

Hulme, K. C.
The nun's story.
Boston, Little, Brown, 1956

Moore, Ruth
Speak to the winds.
N. Y., Morrow, 1956

Richter, H. W.
They fell from God's hands.
N. Y., Dutton, 1956

LIBRARY SCIENCE

American Library Association. Co-ordinating Committee on Revision of Public Library Standards.
Public library service; a guide to evaluation, with minimum standards.
Chicago, A.L.A., 1956

American Library Association. Co-ordinating Committee on Revision of Public Library Standards
Cost of public library service in 1956.
Chicago, A.L.A., 1956

Simmons College, School of Library Service
Books and publishing lecture series. 1953/54.
Boston, 1954.

Winchell, C. M.
Guide to reference books. 7th ed.
Suppl. 1953/55
Chicago, A.L.A., 1956

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

On January 25 the Executive Board had its first meeting in the Temporary Conference Room. This was a brief meeting for the purpose of organizing for the coming year and for the purpose of considering the appointment of chairmen for the various committees. This regular meeting was followed by a special meeting with the Director for the purpose of discussing a possible revision of existing salary schedules. This was the first of two such meetings held in January-February and they represent a continuation of discussions that began in September of 1956. It is the consensus of opinion of the Executive Board that these discussions have had a definite amount of success in clarifying the many troublesome issues involved in any alteration of the existing salary structure. It would be belaboring the painfully obvious to add that all parties concerned in these discussions are in hope that the not too distant future will see favorable action being taken in regard to new salary schedules.

In addition to the meetings with the Director, the Executive Board also had two meetings with the Personnel Committee of the P.S.A. during the intervening period, at which time it was voted that this combined committee would go on record as being opposed to any one group receiving preferential treatment in the matter of salary changes. The final piece of business for the Executive Board was a regularly scheduled meeting on February 12 at which time plans were made for the publication of the minutes of the January Business Meeting and the amended constitution of the P. S. A.

On Wednesday, February 27 in the Lecture Hall the Staff Association will sponsor the first professional meeting of the 1957 season. This is an unusual affair (complete details elsewhere in this issue) combining a reception to new officers with food and fun from other lands. The people involved in the preparation for this affair have worked very hard to give the membership something different as part of a concentrated effort to renew interest in the affairs of the Association. Your comments and support are earnestly sought. In this connection, let me emphasize that every effort will be made to make the Association as active as possible. To do this requires the help of every member in the form of comments, suggestions and support of Association activities.

William T. Casey
President

BRANCH NOTES

West End

The Winter issue of the BAY STATE LIBRARIAN, bulletin of M.L.A. has as its leading article an account of the history and activities of West End, written by Fanny Goldstein, Librarian.

On Sunday afternoon, February 10, a splendid musical program in honor of Jewish Book Month, was held in the Lecture Hall of Central. The program featured the Junior Choir of Temple Sinai, directed by Evelyn Borofsky-Roskin and presented under the sponsorship of West End.

On Monday afternoon, February 11, Miss Goldstein was hostess to twelve nurses-in-training from the Massachusetts General Hospital. They were given a tour of the building and were told of its great historical value and of the role the Branch has played and is playing in the life of the community.

On Wednesday, February 13, Miss Fanny Goldstein was luncheon speaker at the monthly meeting of the West End Community Council, at the Elizabeth Peabody House. She spoke on West End reminiscences, of the changes that have taken place both in the district and within the library walls during the past thirty-five years which she has spent as Librarian.

ON THE SICK LIST

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Mrs Florence Sullivan McCarthy, Book Stack Service, recovering from an operation at her home, 42 Vinson Street, Dorchester.

SOAP BOX

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of the articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

In the January issue of the Question Mark there appeared a letter from the Director to Mr. Rains which raises many questions and several eyebrows. The following quotation from this letter: "the inability of the Library to find qualified candidates for present vacancies", appears to be a misstatement of fact.

A great deal could be written about each vacancy, but for the purpose of brevity let's concentrate on one. The position of Supervisor of Reference & Research Services has been vacant for three years. Why? Certainly the two deputy supervisors are qualified for this position. Furthermore, it is not a question of money as the salary for this position has been included in the budget each year. Then why has this position been held open? This certainly does not help staff morale when conditions such as this are allowed to exist year after year.

Not only is the advancement of one person delayed, but promotion down the line is held up. Chances for advancement in the Division of Reference and Research Services are few enough and difficult enough without unreasonable and unexplained delays.

I am sure the Trustees would act if they had an opportunity to do so. The time has come for action, not more words.

How long? Oh, how long?

Cicero

Dear Soap Box Editor:

In the Question Mark for January, 19 5 there was printed a letter from the Director to President Rains, stating that vacancies were not being filled because there were no qualified candidates.

The position of Supervisor in the Division of Reference & Research Services has not been filled for three years. Can it be that there are no qualified candidates? What are the qualifications which the candidates lack? Education? Pertinent experience? Professional attitude?

Surely the Deputy Supervisors, who have, in large measure been carrying out the duties of the position, compare favorably in their qualifications with the Officers in the other Divisions who are at the same or higher levels than that of Supervisor in the Division of Reference and Research Services.

The opportunities for advancement in the Reference Division are quite restricted and limited. Appointment of the Supervisor might provide opportunities for several persons to advance.

Stagnation because of lack of opportunity is frustrating and destructive of morale.

Isn't three years long enough to wait?

DISGUSTED

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

FEBRUARY MEETING AND RECEPTION TO OFFICERS

Wednesday · February 27, 1957 · 8 p.m.

LECTURE HALL

"Fun and Food for Travellers"

INFORMAL DISCUSSION BY OUR OWN "FAMILY" OF "WORLD" TRAVELERS

PAULINE WINNICK, Open Shelf Department... MODERATOR

EDNA G. PECK, Book Selection Department, H.R.C.S.... Scotland, Switzerland Austria

SARAH RICHMAN, Mattapan Branch Library ... Israel and Italy

BRIDIE P. STOTZ, Adams Street Branch Library ...Mexico and Guatamala

JOHN E. ALDEN, Rare Book Department ... England and Ireland

FRANCIS R. CURRIE, Memorial Branch Library ... Cross-country U.S.A.

COLORFUL EXHIBITS OF SOUVENIERS, FOREIGN RECIPES AND MENUS WILL BE ON DISPLAY

Refreshments with a foreign flair will be served at social hour after program

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Linda M. Pagliuca, Chairman

Mildred R. Adelson
Bettina M. Coletti
Angela A. Sacco
Bridie P. Stotz

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

MARCH 1957

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume XII, Number 3 March 1957

Publications Committee: Charles J. Gillis, Emilia Lange, Catherine D. O'Halloran, B. Joseph O'Neil, Claire P. O'Toole, Sarah Richman, Gerald L. Ball, Chairman

Publication date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material The tenth of each month

EDITORIAL NOTES

We note with pleasure the cordial reception and sympathetic treatment accorded the representatives of the Executive Board and of the Personnel Committee by the members of the Board of Trustees at their meeting on Friday, March 8. The Association members spoke on salary conditions and advocated the granting of raises to the members of the bibliothecal staff. This was in accordance with instructions of the Association formulated at the business meeting held on January 20, 1956.

It is hoped that the grid salary schedule will be set up and that the necessary salary adjustments will be made as promptly as possible. Such a schedule will be in line with those now in effect in the Federal, and State Civil Service and in the School Department. It has been tried with success and should be adopted by the Library. Too often many such worthwhile plans are deferred because of a fear of making slight mistakes. This matter clamors for action, which should be taken without undue delay.

We thank the members of the various Personnel Committees who have worked so hard on the study of salary condttions and the development of possible future salary schedules. We also feel that the Director rates a vote of thanks for his hard work in the same direction.

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

PERSONNEL NOTES

New Employees

Jean M. Anderson, Hyde Park
Joseph N. Harper, Central Charging Records
Mrs Agnes H. Sweeney, Connolly (formerly part-time Bookmobiles)

Transferred

Thomas F. Gaines, from Kirstein to Catalog and Classification (R and RS)
Ethel L. Heins, from Uphams Corner to Brighton
William J. Lee, from Book Stack Service to Kirstein

Resignations

John J. Brauer, Central Charging Records, to accept another position
Mrs A. Gertrude Brown, Personnel, to remain at home
Robert A. Collyer, Book Stack Service, to accept another position
Catherine H. Evans, Catalog and Classification, (R and RS), to accept a position at M.I.T.
Esther R. Leo, West End
Mrs Dorothy S. Rosen, Brighton, to remain at home
Charles L. Higgins, Chief of General Reference, to accept a position as Assistant State Librarian of the State of Michigan
David T. Sheehan, Catalog and Classification (R and RS), to accept a position with General Electric Company

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

During the past month the Executive Board has had a busy time. In addition to the regular meetings of the Board there were three special meetings. One meeting was with the Director attended by the President and the Chairman of the Personnel Committee for the purpose of clarifying the issues involved in the discussion of salary schedules. In this connection it was felt that the Association and the Director were substantially in accord with regard to the main issues involved. A second meeting was held with the Executive Board and the Personnel Committee to determine the best method of presenting the Association's views to the Board of Trustees. Finally, on Friday March 8, the representatives of the Association went before the Trustees to ask for a 10% increase in salaries in accordance with a vote taken at the Business Meeting on January 20, 1956.

With regard to the meeting, it is the opinion of all that representatives of the Association were received most cordially and their problems given an intelligent and sympathetic consideration. It was the expressed view of the Board that the members of the staff of the library were deserving of a salary increase but that financial conditions in the city made it extremely doubtful that the increase requested by the Association could be granted at the present time. The question arose as to the position of the Association in regard to the distribution of any money that might possibly be available for adjustment of salaries and it was indicated that the Association felt that the fairest solution would be to distribute such money evenly rather than attempting to make adjustments on a "time table" basis.

Because of the obvious sympathy of the Board for the problems confronting the library in the matter of personnel and salaries it was not necessary or possible within the framework of alloted time to go into these problems in great detail. The Board did, however, appear cognizant of such things as the loss of trained personnel and the lack of applicants for certain positions.

The Executive Board has now complied with the mandate of the Association but unfortunately this action of itself does not appear to solve the problem of improving salaries. Consequently we must continue to do whatever can be done to improve the situation and any suggestions for possible action will be given every consideration.

Acting upon the request of the Bertha V. Hartzell Memorial Lecture Committee, the Executive Board voted to defer the next Hartzell lecture until the Spring of 1958. It also instructed the Committee to communicate with members of the original Bertha V. Hartzell Memorial Lecture Committee in order to define the limits of the lecture so that it could be determined what steps could be taken to stimulate interest in the lecture on the part of the Association members. Because of past difficulties along these lines this is a subject of considerable importance to the Association and will be part of the agenda for the May business meeting in order that all interested members may be able to express their views.

William T. Casey

SOCIAL WHIRL

On Friday, March 8 Ginger Dahl of the Coffee Shop resigned to accept a position as biller-typist at New England News Company. Ginger was presented with a lovely corsage of Sweetheart Roses and a substantial check from her many B.P.L. friends. The presentation was made by May O. McDonald, Chairman, Concession Committee. Ginger was, of all things, speechless! We shall all certainly miss Ginger - her prompt, courteous service made our respites in the Coffee Shop very pleasant - and send with her best wishes for a wonderful future.

A combination Valentine and farewell party was given for Mrs. Dorothy B. Clark on Tuesday, February 12, by Mrs. Irene Tuttle and other members of the staff at the South Boston Branch Library. Mrs. Clark has retired after many years of service to the B.P.L. We shall miss her, and to her go all our good wishes for a most pleasant retirement.

JUST RECEIVED

Revised application forms
for A.L.A. membership

Interested?

Contact Sarah M. Usher
Office of Records, Files, Statistics

A GALA EVENT

The February Meeting and Reception to Officers of the Professional Staff Association was held on Wednesday evening, February 27 in the Lecture Hall of the Central Library, with most satisfying results. The program "Fun and Food for Travelers" was an attempt by the Committee to produce an event that would not only interest the regular people who attend these programs but also new employees, people from the Branch Libraries who rarely visit the Central Library, anyone who has ever traveled or hopes to travel to exciting faraway places and anyone who likes to sample different and exotic foreign foods. Many B.P.L.'ers were in attendance at the program; several were quite enthusiastic about the panel discussion on "travelling at home and abroad" and everyone was pleased with the refreshments and delightful exhibits. And so, all is well that ends well ..... however, the Committee wishes to thank each and everyone of our fellow co-workers who in some way or other helped to make this program a success. Without all of them, the meeting would not have been as fascinating and enjoyable as it was. Now, to plan the next one ....

LINDA M. PAGLIUCA
Program Chairman

NEW CITIZENS ON MARCH 5, 1957

Marie Ann Orth, Personnel is bubbling with excitement over the arrival of her new brother, a red-haired little cherub named John Michael.

The McCafferty's (Monica, from Catalog, R.R.S. and John, formerly General Reference) are equally excited over the arrival of their heir, John Cornelius McCafferty.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS OF BPLPSA

Mary E. Dutton	Jamaica Plain
Frank Lavine	West End
Barbara Whitledge	Office of Div. of H.R. & C.S.

Mary Roberts, Chairman
Membership and Hospitality Committee

CARE

A recent recipient of a $1 Food Crusade package writes as follows: (a translation)

Dear Benefactor:

When we received your gift package we were very happy. That is to say, with us everything is not very plentiful. I am a boy of 14 years, and am without parents. I lost my mother very early and my father did not return from the war. Now I live with my grandmother. She is 69 years old. When we received your gift package her eyes lighted with joy and I was also overjoyed.

We thank you for your good gift package.

(Erhard Popner
Harber 82
Kr. Burgdorf bei Hannover
Germany)

Our CARE funds are currently being used for $100 Food Crusade packages for Hungarian refugees.

NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Library Science

Brown, C. H.
Scientific serials.
Chicago, Association of College and Reference Libraries, 1956.

Conference of Eastern College Librarians
Recruiting library personnel.
Chicago, Association of College and Reference Libraries, 1956.

Wilson, H. W., firm, publishers
Standard catalog for public libraries, Suppl. 1955
New York, 1956

Wilson, H. W., firm, publishers
Fiction catalog, Suppl. 1951-55
New York, 1956.

STAFF IN PRINT

The Simmons News
Thursday, February 21, 1957
Page 1
Boston Public Library has own magical life
by Dorothy Morris.

Editor's Note: Miss Morris is a member of the Book Stack Service Staff

MEET OUR NEW ARRIVALS

Mrs. Joan N. Anderson of Hyde Park Branch comes to us from New Bedford where she taught in the public schools after graduating from Bridgewater State Teachers College '54.

She has an article in process on the ballet for the Dancers notebook and is a member of "The Stouters," an ambitious little theatre group which has put on such productions as, - Murder in the Cathedral, Dial M for Murder and the Importance of being Earnest. In the group she has played parts as well as being concerned with the production end of things

Joseph N. Harper, CCR, was graduated from Roxbury Memorial High School '54, where he took an active part in the debating activities and knows the pros and cons of such topics as "Should the Voting Age be Dropped to the Drafting Age?" (Incidentally, Joe believes that it should not). He served with the U. S. Marines in Virginia and California, and got to Japan. When discharged he attended B.U. General College for a semester. His plans for continuing his education are indefinite.

Karl Nyren has returned to the Fine Arts Department staff after an absence of two and one-half years spent in teaching English and Humanities at Bethune-Cookman College in Daytona Beach, Florida. He was Chairman of the English Department there.

Before he first entered the B.P.L. in 1952, he studied at Boston University and taught at Caney Junior College in Kentucky and at Boston University Junior College.

He is married to a Librarian of the Newton Free Library System, Dorothy Nyren, who was formerly Director of the Cornelia Young Library in Daytona Beach. They have two children and live in Newton.

Leisure activities include long distance swimming, theater participation and creative writing.

Patricia Ann Ashe, Office of Records, Files, Statistics, and another member of the famous McDonough Clan, graduated from Mission High in 1955, where she was a prominent member of the Glee Club and Camera Club. Miss Ashe bowls very well, has an appealing soprano voice, and is a much sought-after dancing partner at Moseley's on the Charles.

BRANCH NOTES

The Catholic Book Week exhibit at the West End Branch, "Catholic Shrines Throughout the World" has aroused so much interest that its display has been extended into the Lenten season. Shrines in the Boston area figure prominently in the display. Many Catholic religious communities in and around Boston have contributed material to the exhibit. A four foot statue of St. Francis of Assisi, carved from a solid block of mahogany by the artist Jean de Marco of New York, is on exhibit through the courtesy of the Franciscan Fathers of St. Anthony's Shrine, Arch Street, Boston. Also on display is the architect's drawing of the Holy Ghost Chapel in the new Father Gillis Catholic Center, under construction on Park Street, Among other shrines represented are the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Mission Church), Roxbury; St. Clement's Eucharistic Shrine; St. Thomas More Oratory; the Madonna Shrine, Don Orione Home for the Aged, East Boston; the Chapels of our Lady of the Airways and Railways, Logan Airport and South Station; Don Bosco Chapel, Gloucester; Our Lady of La Salette, Ipswich; and Our Lady of the Lamp, Gloucester.

The display has brought many visitors to the Branch, among them a number of religious. Preparing and assembling the exhibit was fun - so many new friends were made, so many new facts were acquired. And equally important, the pictorial resources of the Branch have been enriched greatly by additional Catholic material of numerous gifts of photographs and pictures of the Boston nuns, priests and brothers who are largely responsible for the success of the exhibit.

Mrs. Joyce Ellis, Children's Librarian, has just returned from a relaxing month's vacation of swimming, golfing and fishing in sunny Florida. Mrs. Ellis reports that the sand is as white, the sky is as blue, and the water is as warm as the travel posters tell us.

Miss Fanny Goldstein, Branch Librarian, addressed members of the Emma Lazarus Club at the Morton Plaza in Mattapan, Sunday, March 3rd, on the subject of "Some Jewish Women Writers," as a Facet of International Women's Day. International Women's Day is annually observed on March 8th.

SOAP BOX

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of the articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

Anent the Director's letter to the President in January's Question Mark, stating that positions had not been filled because of the lack of qualified candidates.

Can this statement apply to Supervisor of Reference & Research Services?

In February of 1954 the position became vacant. It was not until early in 1956 that the vacancy was formally recognized by including it in the list of vacancies, and not until June 1956, almost two and one half years after the Division was left without a Supervisor that the position was listed as a Vacancy to be Filled. The deadline for receipt of applications was extended until September 1956 so that all interested candidates could have an opportunity to submit applications.

Now, 5 months after the deadline, and 3 years after the position has been left vacant, has any one of the applicants been interviewed? Have all the applicants been notified that they are not qualified?

Why should there be such a delay in filling this position? Is it considered so unessential that it could be left unfilled indefinitely?

Has this been fair to the Deputy Supervisors and other Chiefs of Departments who have been acting as Officer-in-Charge at the Supervisor's Enclosure? Or to their departments? Most of the working-week of the Deputy Supervisors is spent on duty as the Officer-in-Charge, and other chiefs are also regularly scheduled for such duty. Necessarily, an extra burden is placed on the personnel of those departments whose Chiefs are absent from their departments because of duty as Officer-in-Charge. Responsible staff members are willing to do everything possible to help in an emergency. But can a situation that lasts three years be considered an emergency? Why this endless delay?

Provoked

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

The General Administrative Notices, Nos. 16-19, distributed to the staff on March 8, 1957, while the Trustees were in session, gives us much food for a great deal of thought.

The qualifications for the positions of Chief of the General Reference Department, the Chief of the Book Selection Department, and that of the Supervisor of Reference & Research Services appear to be rigged to accomplish two things: first, it would seem to be an attempt to by-pass the individuals already on the job and qualified to fill those vacancies; and second, it looks as though those qualifications are tailored to fit particular individuals.

We are sure that the Trustees are not aware of this and that when the recommendations for filling those vacancies come before them, it would be well to scrutinize each with the utmost care. We do not believe that the Trustees would knowingly be a party to such unfair treatment.

A situation in which qualifications for a position appear to have been tailored for a particular individual, so that qualified candidates believe that they have not been given a fair opportunity to advance, cannot help but contribute to staff unrest and lowering of staff morale. This

could not happen under Civil Service.
Yours for Civil Service.

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

Fellow staff members, many of you will be relieved to learn that we are investigating the merits of various plans for insurance against blindness, in an attempt to discover which will provide maximum protection for that imminent time when we will no longer be able to see. While various suggestions and comments have been offered throughout the years, we have never before done more than talk about the situation. When, a few years back, our hopes were raised by discussion of plans for a new building, we had our spectacles changed and waited patiently for brighter days to come. Finally, last week at the Director's meetings, the last vestige of our waning hopes died when Mr. Lord carefully explained that cuts in the library's maintenance budget have condemned us to at least another year of darkness. Alas, we fear it will be too long for the less fortunate of us! It will be difficult, if not impossible, for our blind fellows to see how renovation of the lighting in Bates Hall--technically called extraordinary repairs and financed through a bond issue--differs from renovation of the lighting in several other areas of the Central Library building--technically described as regular repairs and doomed to wait until the City Council gives us more money. It will likewise be difficult to convince those sightless BPLers of the great beauty of the brilliantly-lighted exhibit cases which they can no longer see. Still -- librarians are a loyal group and the Director is a persuasive orator so perhaps the difficult will not prove to be impossible.

Meanwhile, as an emergency relief measure, a special subcommittee has been appointed to arrange discount rates for bulk purchase of white canes, miner's lamps, and if possible seeing-eye dogs as well. Keep your chins up, Chaps!

Diogenes' Disciples

WILLIAM A. CAREY'S RETIREMENT

William A. Carey of the Binding Department has many friends and co-workers who have known him and his smiling disposition since he entered the Library service December 8, 1932. Those friends gathered in his honor at Steuben's Vienna Room on Tuesday evening February 26, 1957 to dine and wish him well on his retirement from the service February 28, 1957.

Sharing honors with Mr. Carey was his daughter Bertha who was presented with a beautiful orchid corsage.

Mr. Francis X. Moloney, Assistant to the Director, in Charge of Business Operations, presented Mr. Carey with a handsome bound book with case containing autographs and messages of good wishes from his many friends.

James P. Meers, Chief of Bindery, presented him with a purse of money from his friends to purchase a retirement gift of his own liking.

Among the guests attending was John Connolly, First Vice President, International Brotherhood of Bookbinders, and also the Officers of Boston Local Number 16, International Brotherhood of Bookbinders.

James P. Meers

ANOTHER SOCIAL NOTE

On Wednesday, February 27, the staff of the North End Branch Library gave an impromptu coffee party in honor of Joan M. Bianchi's forthcoming marriage to Jerome Neuwirth of New York, a Fellow in Mathematics at M.I.T. Miss Bianchi, of the children's room staff, was presented with a Toastmaster from the full-time staff and a silver tray from the part-time workers. The wedding and reception was held on Sunday, March 10, at the Hampton Court Hotel with several library friends of the bride in attendance.

Calendar of Events

March 21: A.B.A. has planned an all-day meeting at the Sheraton Plaza. The present and future prospects of the book business will be discussed. The speaker at the 12:30 luncheon will be Edward A. Weeks, Editor of the Atlantic Monthly.

March 25: S.L.A. meets at the Museum of Science Park. This will give members and their friends a chance to see the Science Library and some of the new exhibits that have been set up.

April 3: Men's Librarians" Club will meet in the Lecture Hall at 6 o'clock. The speaker, Frederick G. Melcher, Editor of Publishers' Weekly will tell of his book selling experiences in Boston. The Chairman of arrangements is Milton E. Lord.

FAREWELL COFFEE HOUR

On Thursday, March 7, in the Ladies Lounge of the Central Library a reception was given for Charles L. Higgins who leaves his position as Chief, General Reference to assume a new position as Assistant State Librarian in the Michigan State Library. Mr. Higgins was joined by his wife and daughter in receiving the well wishes of library friends and associates. Mrs. Higgins, the former Celeste Le Vangie, before her marriage had also been a member of the Library staff. Many of her fellow-workers of past years recall her friendly pleasant personality and were pleased to see her again to wish her and her family the best of good luck and happiness in Michigan. All of us were very happy to greet Mr. and Mrs. Higgins' daughter Celeste, who sustained severe injuries from an accident last year. We fell sure that young Celeste, a gracious and intelligent girl, will acquire many friends in Michigan.

An indication of the esteem which Mr. Higgins enjoys among his library associates was the generous gift of money, to which numerous Library worker and the Simmons Library School Faculty had contributed; this gift was presented by Eamon McDonough, Reference Librarian, General Reference, with friendly remarks that represented the well wishes of the many who attended this reception.

Refreshments were prepared and served by a committee under the very capable direction of Mrs Bertha Keswick.

A friendly and informal atmosphere prevailed at this reception. Were were pleased to see many of the Simmons Library School Faculty. It is, of course, always a pleasure to the Library staff to Mr. Lord at these affairs.

This reception was a testimony to the talented accomplishments of Mr. Higgins at the Library and at the Simmons College Library School.

Paul Moynihan

Men's Librarians' Club

On Wesnesday, February 20, 1957, the Men's Librarians' Club held the most pleasant meeting in its history at the Creagh Research Library of St. John's Seminary. After an opportunity to see the outstanding collection of books in the ecclesiastical sciences and Canon Law, the group proceeded to Theology House. Following extremely agreeable preliminaries we were invited to the refectory for a sumptuous repast, with filet mignon as the piece de resistance.

Father John Broderick, Librarian of St. John's Seminary then gave an address of welcome, and introduced his Superior, Monsignor Riley, Rector of St. John's Seminary who spoke briefly. The chief speaker was, of course, His Excellency Archbishop Cushing whose inspiring talk included a pleasantly detailed report on how the Creagh Library was acquired, a short history of the Archdiocese, and an appreciation of the important part that scholarship and librarians play in today's world. He felt that the education of Russian youth, with its emphasis on Communism is more to be feared than Russian accomplishments with the atom bomb, and he pointed out that librarians have the duty of seeing that our youths as well as our adults are supplied with the information needed to maintain and develop our kind of civilization.

At the conclusion of the meeting, His Excellency gave a copy of the three-volume History of the Archdiocese of Boston to all members of the Club and their friends who were present.

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES - 1957

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Vice-President	Euclid C. Peltier
Corresponding Secretary	Ruth Marshall
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*--Representative of the Boston Public Library Building Service Employees International Union, Local #409 (AFL)

**--Representative of other groups not represented in the Association or the Union

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Publicity Committee

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Rosemarie DeSimone	Connolly

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

APRIL 1957

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume XII, Number 4 April 1957

Publications Committee: Charles J. Gillis, Emilia Lange, Catherine D. O'Halloran, B. Joseph O'Neil, Claire P. O'Toole, Sarah Richman, Gerald L. Ball, Chairman

Publication date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material The tenth of each month

EDITORIAL NOTES

As springtime approaches once more and the merry-go-round of student activity, which keeps all segments of the library staff working at an uncomfortably fast pace, begins to slow down, there comes a time when one might ask "Why am I doing this job? Why not leave some of this work for the next fellow?"

In almost every case the reasons for not following this seemingly logical line of thought are nearly as numerous as the individuals concerned. Competition, the urge to prove oneself better than one's neighbor, is high on the list of reasons for a productive career. The fear of criticism is another potent reason for some workers to shoulder their portion of the common burden. Others do so from sheer enjoyment of their work, while a few decide that they work solely as a means of providing for their economic needs. There are degrees and combinations of all these objectives underlying the workaday world at all times - yet the last one, the need to provide a living, the attempt to uphold a set standard of living, this is fast becoming the overriding reason for most workers to stay on the job. If it seems to become more difficult each week to meet the rising costs of living in the face of static budgetary conditions, frustrations must arise which will adversely affect each member of the staff. Public servants (federal, state and municipal) have long been accustomed to the ponderous mechanisms which must be used by administrators in making any sweeping change involving personnel budgets.

While awaiting such corrective action as seems necessary and overdue, we should all strive to maintain the fine service for which the Boston Public Library has been acclaimed for the past quarter-century. We should prevent any tendency toward a gradual disorganization of this service.

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

* * * *

RED FEATHER AWARD

On Thursday, March 29, the library was honored by the award of a bronze placque. The presentation was made by H. C. Welch of the Red Feather Staff who stated that of all the Federal, State and Municipal units the Boston Public Library had the highest per capita rate of contributions. The award was accepted by Samuel Green, Chairman of the Library's Red Feather Campaign. Present at the brief ceremony in the Trustee's Office were the Director and the following individuals who represented the various organizations of the staff:

William T. Casey, President, Professional Staff Association
William H. Donald, President, Building Service Employees' International Union (AFL-CIO), Local #409
Charles J. Gillis, Vice President, Quarter Century Club
William Sullivan, Secretary-Treasurer, International Brotherhood of Bookbinders (AFL-CIO), Boston Local #16
Mrs. Elizabeth L. Wright, Supervisor of Personnel

NEW ARRIVALS

Mr and Mrs John Travers are the proud parents of a daughter, Elizabeth, born April 5, 1957. Mrs Travers is the former Barbara Cotter of Connolly.

Mr and Mrs Patrick Walsh proudly announce the birth of their son on April 1, 1957. Rita is on leave from Egleston Square.

SOCIAL WHIRL

On Thursday, March 28, Richadean Few, Book Stack Service, was guest at a lunch in the Women's Lunch Room in honor of her approaching marriage to Robert Henderson on March 30. Richadean's friends presented her with a handsome electric coffee maker and a bouquet of daffodils, as well as their best wishes for a happy future!

*

On Friday evening, March 29th, the present staff and past members of the Hyde Park Branch, Miss Leufgren and Mrs. Bavicchi, were guests at a shower given by Miss Peterson at her home in honor of a former member, Gilda Tecce.

After the excitement of opening the many beautiful gifts, there was the pleasure of seeing the gaily decorated table and enjoying the delicious refreshments served by the hostess and her charming mother.

ARNAVETS

At a well-attended annual meeting of the members of the Arnavets on Friday, April 5, the following steps were taken: The Adjutant and Quartermasters' reports given by James P. J. Gannon and the retiring Commander's report by Henry F. Barry were accepted.

The following members were elected for 1957-58:

Commander-Thomas J. Daly
Vice Commander-Louis Polishook
Adjutant-Quartermaster-James P.J.Gannon (23d term)
Chaplain-William A. Reynolds
Sergeant Major-S. Leroy Baxter

For the information of those few members who were unable to attend, plans for the coming year were discussed. It was voted that a steak dinner be held in the near future. Details will be worked out by the newly-elected officers.

Henry F. Barry
Retiring Commander

BRANCH NOTES

East Boston

On March 21 at 3.30 p.m. a special C A R E Story Hour was held in the lecture hall of East Boston. In response to letters sent to the local schools and Girl Scout troops in the district, over 182 children gathered together to listen to stories and to contribute their pennies to C A R E. However, contributions were not limited to the children present at the story hour. From 2.30 on through the afternoon, a steady procession of children passed through our doors, penny in hand, ready to drop it into a box made by the father of one of our borrowers. The grand total of $8.11 was collected. In addition to this, the children learned about the purpose of C A R E and the Library was able to bring together within its walls various groups in the community for a typical library program as well as a charitable cause.

*

West End

Special Story Hours were in the limelight at West End during March. The regular Thursday afternoon story hour on March 7th was devoted entirely to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow whose 150th anniversary was celebrated recently. The children were told in brief the story of Longfellow's life, with emphasis on events relating to his residence in Cambridge. The reading of some of the best-loved works of "The Children's Poet" then followed, including THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH, THE CHILDREN'S HOUR and sections of HIAWATHA.

On the morning of March 27th the Branch played host at a Story Hour to a very young group of listeners. The two kindergarten classes of the Winchell School proved an eager and attentive audience to the telling of MIKE MULLIGAN and THE LITTLE ISLAND. To reciprocate in entertainment, the thirty-two small guests sang a selection of Spring and Easter songs for the "library teachers."

*

Timothea Allen, Extra Assistant and a Senior at Ursuline Academy won honors at the Science Fair on March 23d. Carbon as a decolorizer was the subject of her project which won second prize at the fair.

Rember the needs of those served by C A R E.
Give now!
SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR CARE

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

March was a comparatively quiet month for the Executive Board. Without the necessity for extended discussion of salary problems the Board could concern itself with such tasks as the selection of individuals to serve on the Appeal Panel. For the benefit of those who are unfamiliar with the Appeal Panel, it is composed of five members and five alternates, and from this group the appellant may select one member to serve on the Appeal Board. The Administration selects a second member of the Board of Appeal and these two individuals choose a third member to serve as chairman. (For complete details see the General Administrative Notice of April 9, 1951.) Names of Association members who have agreed to serve on the Appeal Panel will be announced at the May Business Meeting.

The Executive Board approved the nomination of B. Gertrude Wade of Codman Square for membership on the SORT steering committee.

Notices have been sent to the Staff Representatives to begin collection of the annual dues. Please cooperate with your Representative and pay dues promptly. Representatives are also encouraged to bring to the attention of the Executive Board any problems or questions of Association business. The Executive Board can only serve the interests of the membership effectively if that membership utilizes the established means of communication.

William T. Casey
President

NEW BOOKS FOR THE STAFF LIBRARY

Non-Fiction

Belden, T. G.
So fell the angels
Boston, Little, Brown, 1956

Cannon, Poppy
A gentle knight
N. Y., Rinehart, 1956

Hackett, A. P.
60 years of best sellers, 1895-1955
N. Y., Bowker, 1956

Levine, I. D.
Stalin's great secret
N. Y., Coward McCann, 1956

Mead, Margaret
New lives for old
N. Y., Morrow, 1956

Mount, C. M.
John Singer Sargent
N. Y. Norton, 1955

National Society for the Study of Education. Committee on Adult Reading.
Adult reading
Chicago, N. S. S. E., 1956

Solomon, B. M.
Ancestors and immigrants, a changing New England tradition
Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1956

Taylor, S. W.
I have six wives
New York, Greenberg, 1956

Library Science

American Library Association
A basic book collection for elementary grades
Chicago, A. L. A., 1956

American Library Association, Office of Adult Education
Cooperative film services in public libraries
Chicago, A. L. A., 1956

Beckhard, Richard
How to plan and conduct workshops and conferences
N. Y., Association Press, 1956

Mumby, F. A.
Publishing and bookselling, 4th ed.
London, Cape, 1956

Taylor, Archer
A history of bibliographies of bibliographies
New Brunswick, N. J., Scarecrow Press, 1955

Fiction

Denham, Elizabeth
I looked right
London, Cassell, 1956

Lindop, A. E.
The Judas figures
N. Y., Appleton, 1956

McCrone, Guy
Charlotte and Dr James
N. Y., Farrar, 1956

Spencer, Elizabeth
The voice at the back door
N. Y., McGraw-Hill, 1956

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY REACHES THE TEACHERS

In the last several weeks, the Readers Advisor for Young Adults, Pauline Winnick, has participated at the Annual Conference of the Massachusetts Teachers Association in the Workshop on Building Respect for the Law; has given a talk on Books for Today's Young People to the Council of Heads of English Departments in Boston High Schools; has spoken on Books for Action-Minded Youth with Readers Advisor for Children, Virginia Haviland, at the Massachusetts Department of Education's Institute on Youth Problems held in Fall River; and took part in Mrs Javelin's program on March 20 with Veronica Yotts and Euclid Peltier for the Women's Club of Secondary School Teachers.

ALUMNI NOTES

Editor,
Question Mark

Look forward to receiving the Question Mark and reading about people and events at the BPL. Some of my friends may be interested in the enclosed item.

With best wishes,
Sincerely,
Abe Kalish

Ed. note: Mr Kalish was a member of the Office of Home Reading and Community Services.

From: THE SUNDAY STAR, Washington, D. C.
April 7, 1957

...As a separate project, USIA's features section provides a twice-a-month stamp column which has proved very popular overseas. Now a year old, it is used by more than 250 newspapers, magazines and other publications in practically every country of the free world.

The columns written by Abraham H. Kalish are about 600 words long and each is devoted to a single United States stamp, with emphasis on the historical background. Topics have included Washington and Franklin, Mount Vernon and Independence Hall, the achievements of American labor and our efforts at wildlife conservation.

Mr. Kalish is a specialist in historical features with a background of stamp collecting. The active collector in the Kalish family, he says, is his 14-year-old son.

Field reports say the stamp column "reaches an audience of higher than average intelligence and influence." A report from a South American country describes the feature as "one of the most useful and effective means of presenting many facets of our program in a form which is extremely acceptable to this country's audience, including many segments normally sensitive and antagonistic to our efforts."

One unplanned-for result of the column has been "an increased interest and demand for United States stamps among local collectors." Mr. Kalish takes care of this too. Each column on a currently available stamp includes the name and address of the Philatelic Agency here.

INTERESTING ITEM

B. U. President Harold C. Case was quoted in the B. U. News on April 9, 1957 as saying:

"The Boston Public library wanted the Copley Square area land by Feb. 9, 1959, to erect a new addition to the library. Instead of an original $1 million estimate to build the addition, the city estimates it now will cost $3 or $4 million..."

ALUMNI WEDDING

Patricia Auvil, formerly of Branch Issue was married on February 23, to Lt. (J.G.) Donald Foltz of Pennsylvania. The ceremony took place in the Harvard Epworth Methodist Church. The couple will make their home in Cambridge. Patricia left Branch Issue in 1953 to train as a nurse at Mt. Auburn Hospital in Cambridge, and graduated in June, 1956.

IN THE SPRING A YOUNG MAN'S FANCY . . .
RECRUITING BAIT
A HALF CENTURY OF PROGRESS
or

choose your own title for this compilation which was begun by a former staff member and has received additions from many present staff members. If a couple you know, or are half of, has been omitted, please inform us and a supplementary list will be forth coming in true library fashion.

Oh, yes, these are maids and men who met while working in the B.P.L. and were married subsequently--to each other!

1. Shirley V. Anderson--Richard J. Waters
2. Augusta Avedon--James W. Kenney
3. Alice Barry--William McGowan
4. Ellen Barry--Arthur Pumphret
5. Margaret Barry--Francis Hannigan
6. Mary Bean--Leo Murphy
7. Roberta P. Boehner--John McGillicuddy
8. Irene Brown--Lee Dunn
9. Mary Brown--Leo Ryan
10. Vera Calbury--Patrick Murtagh
11. Gertrude Carey--James Kinsella
12. Margaret Carroll--Michael J. Doyle
13. Evelyn Caswell--John M. Carroll
14. Mildred Chalifoux--John J. Connolly
15. ? Chamberlain--Francis Watts Lee
16. Elizabeth Coleman--James McGillicuddy
17. Gertrude M. Concree--Charles Murphy
18. Mary Curado--David Sheehan
19. Mary H. Daly--Arthur Maier
20. Elinor Day--William Conley
21. Antoinette DiDio--Michael Dello Russo
22. Philomena DiSciullo--Joseph Sullivan
23. Ann Devlin--John Hankey
24. Ann B. Doherty--Daneil W. Kelly
25. Rose Doherty--John F. P. McCarthy
26. Marguerite Donovan--Francis Scannell
27. Catherine T. Duffy--Louis O'Halloran
28. Pauline Eaton--Martin Murphy
29. Jean Ellard--Harry Fletcher
30. Mary Fay--Paul F. Nagle
31. Agnes Fortunato--William Prescott
32. Mary Foy--Gerald L. Ball
33. Dorothy Galvin--Robert Roper
34. Helen Griffin--Edward Scollins
35. Marie J. Gross--James S. Kennedy
36. Monica Harrington--John McCafferty
37. Edna M. Hersey--Theodore W. Cellarius
38. Mary I. Hoopes--Gregory Edson
39. Angeline J. Hovestadt--James P.J. Moores
40. Elizabeth L. Jewett--Russell A. Scully
41. Lillian Kennedy--Joseph Crowley
42. Alice Kernan--John Cray
43. Celeste LeVangie--Charles L. Higgins
44. Marie McCarthy--Herbert Hewes
45. Mary A. McDonald--Hubert Keenan
46. Mary McElaney--George McCarthy
47. Ellen McShane--Francis P. Glavin
48. E. Carolyn Merrill--Lucien Taylor
49. Madeline Mitchell--Max Annapolle
50. Anne Moore--Paul Dolan
51. Margaret Murphy--Charles J. Gillis
52. Ella K. Murray--John J. Keenan
53. Susan J. Parrow--Charles J. Keefe
54. Marie Pineo--Blair Benner
55. Grace Robinson--William E. Clegg
56. Stella Postorio--Philip Sexton
57. Mary J. Quigley--Matthew Hoey
58. Anna Sledge--Albert Riley
59. Alice Smithers--Edward Ryan
60. Phoebe Stone--Eamon E. McDonough
61. Florence Sullivan--William McCarthy
62. Margaret Sweeney--John Niland
63. Frances Tomasello--Francis O'Hara
64. Annie Twomey--Paul Reardon
65. Mary Wall--Willard DeLue
66. Carolyn Wallace--Francis Myers
67. Eunice R. Werner--John E. Lerch
68. Ruth Williamson--Robert Heyl
69. Eileen T. Wilson--Paul McGillicuddy
70. Florence Wilson--Everett Van Teslaar
71. Mary Wilson--Martin Waters
72. Patricia Wilson--Michael Venezia
73. Mary Louise ? --Michael McCarthy
74. ? ? ? --Frank Blaisdell
75. ? ? ? --Thomas Kane

Suggestion: In the blank space below, jot down your additions or corrections!

FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

8.55 A.M.

The phone is ringing madly
Librarian races to reply;
"What time is the library open?"
"At 9", says librarian with a sigh.

9 A.M.

The desk is arranged most neatly
Pencils, paper, charge machine set,
A ring pierces the silence,
"Is the library open yet?"

9.05, 10, 20, 25, 35, etc.

So it rings the whole day through
An intermittent or incessant drone,
The persistent, never-ending
Tinkle of the telephone.

8.55 P.M.

The desk is clear, the pouches packed
The tables cleaned, and so it goes
And there's that telephone again,
"What time does the library close?"

9.05 P.M.

She's out the door - the telephone rings,
She rushes back - but to her sorrow,
What words assail her bruised ear drums,
"Can you tell me what time you're open tomorrow?"

STAFF ACTIVITIES

Martha C. Engler, South End, will be the Chairman of the Section Meeting of the Catholic Library Association, Elementary Schools Libraries Section at Louisville, Kentucky on Wednesday, April 24, 1957.

PERSONAL NOTES

Entered

Joan L. Chadbourne, West End
Renée De Millar, Office of the Division of Reference and Research Services
John F. Kearns, Book Stack Service (formerly of Book Purchasing)
Mrs. Marion Leibsohn, Hospital Library Service
Edward B. Ravish, Book Purchasing

Transferred

Kathleen B. Hegarty, from Office of the Division of Reference and Research Services to General Reference

Married

M. Joan Bianchi, North End, to Jerome H. Neuwirth, March 10.

Resignations

Laura M. Bondi, Director's Office, to travel in Europe
Mrs. Carolyn A. Canale, Mt. Bowdoin, to remain at home
Edwin J. Kelley, Mr, Kirstein, to accept a position with the U. S. Government at Natick.
Mrs. Ellen M. MacDonald, Book Stack Service, to remain at home
Mrs. Marie O'Brien, Central Charging Records, to remain at home
John H. Packard, Open Shelf, illness at home
Mrs. Mary V. Quercia, Book Stack Service, illness at home
Susan Royal, Roslindale
Mrs. Helen T. Schwartz, City Point, to remain at home
A. Victoria Vangos, Director's Office

MAY MEETING PLANNED

The Boston Regional Group of Catalogers and Classifiers will hold its Spring meeting at Brandeis University on Monday, May 20, 1957, at 6:30 p.m. A tour of the campus, dinner, and an address by the librarian will form part of the evening's program.

Edward X. Casey
Chairman

IN MEMORIAM

Everett Belknap Tewksbury, 1876-1957

March 22, 1957 marked the passing of Everett B. Tewksbury, an employee of the Library from 1924 until his retirement in 1946, except for a one-year interruption when he filled the position of assistant professor of music at the New Jersey College for Women. Everyone who knew Mr. Tewksbury must share the feeling of sadness and loss we all experience when we learn of the death of a friend or fellow worker--he was a fine person, a loyal friend and a charming gentlemen. "Tewkie", as many of us were accustomed to call him when speaking of him, received his A. B. cum laude from Harvard University, Class of 1899, and his A.M. from Columbia University in 1911. He was very versatile, began his career teaching in private schools for 15 years; then spent some years as principal of the New York Institution for the Blind, New York City; and finally settled in library work as a career, continuing his musical interests of organist and choirmaster as an avocation.

Mr. Tewksbury cataloged music almost exclusively in the Cataloging and Classification Department, Division of Reference and Research Services, from 1927 until 1946, and was an inspiration to work with as well as a remarkable example of a perfectionist in his field of endeavor. There were many interesting facets to his character, among the most admirable being his keen sense of humor and his ability to understand his fellow-man. During his retirement he enjoyed his hobbies--drawing, painting, weaving and bookbinding. Mr. Tewksbury made a fine contribution to his profession and left a store of pleasant memories to all of us here at the Boston Public Library who were privileged to know him.

Alice Hackett

MRS. LOUISE C. WALL

Mrs. Louise C. Wall, who entered the service of the Library as a Probationary Cleaner on April 3, 1946, and who had been Housekeeper since February 1956, passed away on April 4, 1957, after a short hospitalization.

Her duties at Central Library brought her into daily contact with the entire staff. Those who used the Women's Lunch Room regularly will remember her cheerful interest in their welfare and her friendly personality. One of the duties which she carried on with great pride was the preparation of tea for the Trustees and members of the Examining Committee. Mrs. Wall was a Gold Star Mother and took an active part in the program of that group.

BON VOYAGE LUNCHEON

On Wednesday, March 20, there was held at the Darbury Room a farewell luncheon for Laura Bondi who within the next few days was to set sail for Europe. She was presented with a corsage of camelias and a wallet with a "trust fund" for European fund purposes. Laura's library friends are anxious to hear about her hostel experiences upon her return.

MEET OUR NEW ARRIVALS

Edward B. Ravish, the new member of Book Purchasing, graduated from Chicopee High School in 1951 and, after spending four years in the U. S. Navy patrolling up and down the East Coast with an occasional trip to Cuba, returned to civilian life. His first stop was at St. Philip Neri School where he successfully took the specialized course that squeezes four years of Latin, two years of Greek, plus the usual high school math and English, into one year.

Ed, an accomplished sax and clarinet player, who has helped liven the proms at the University of Massachusetts and Springfield College with his playing, also dabbles in art. He has turned out some very creditable pastels. At present he is attending B.C. Intown, working toward a degree in philosophy.

LATE FLASH

A son, about 8 pounds, to Mr. and Mrs. William T. Casey, Central Book Stock, Branch Issue Section, on April 15. This is the Casey's first boy, and fourth child.

SALUTE TO YOUTH WEEK

The week of March 24-30 was designated as Salute to Youth Week by Honorable John B. Hynes, Mayor of Boston. During this week public recognition was given to outstanding young people and young adult groups in the City. The week culminated in a program held in the Library's Lecture Hall, at which time a panel from Adams Street, North End, and Uphams Corner Young Adult groups expressed appreciation to the adults of Boston and demonstrated the contribution of youth as the "guardians of our freedom."

Reverend Norman C. O'Connor, C.S.P. Catholic Chaplain of Boston University, served as Moderator of the panel, with Danny Kaye as Guest Moderator. Danny Kaye left the Symphony Concert early and arrived under police escort just in time for the panel discussion. Milton E. Lord, Director of the Boston Public Library, welcomed the audience, and in the absence of Mayor Hynes ably presided at the meeting introducing Sidney Rabb, Chairman of Board of Trustees, Stop & Shop; and Henry M. Leen, Chairman, Mayor's Civic Committee, who brought greetings.

Seven awards were presented by Mr. Lord to organizations for outstanding work with young adults. Among those receiving an award was the Young Adult Council of the North End Branch Library. This award was accepted by Mrs. Geraldine Herrick, Branch Librarian. The award read: "The City of Boston. Mayor John B. Hynes awards this certificate to the Boston Public Library, North End Branch, in recognition of their outstanding program for Boston youth in observance of Salute to Youth Week, 1957." Danny Kaye was also given an award of merit (hand lettered by Mildred Somes, Book Preparation), for his work with children and youth all over the world, and particularly for his work as Ambassador at Large to the United Nations International Children's Fund.

Among the ushers were the following part-time Assistants in the Library: Judith Anne Clifford, Hyde Park, Bette S. Lofchie, Mattapan, Pearl M. Owens, Egleston Square, Judith Williams, Open Shelf, and Carolyn Wong, South End. Music was furnished by the Boston Junior Symphony and a choral group from Mount Saint Joseph Academy, Brighton.

A Salute to Youth poster designed and made by Rose Marie DeSimone, Probationary Assistant, Connolly, brought its artist much favorable publicity. This poster was used throughout the City. B.P.L. members of the Youth's Day Committee were: Mrs. Muriel C. Javelin, Mrs. Ada A. Andelman, Rose Moorachian, Linda Pagliuca, and Mrs. Bridie Stotz.

Those of us who remember the former drab appearance of the Lecture Hall could not but think what a delightful place the Hall is at the present time. Special thanks go to the members of the Buildings Department for their help in making the Hall ready for the meeting, and for their assistance during the meeting.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Rosemarie DeSimone Connolly, was presented with the Youth Week Poster Award on Thursday, March 28th at the Kiwanis Dinner at the Hotel Touraine. She was presented with an orchid and was a guest of honor at the dinner. Earlier His Honor, the Mayor, in recognition of the award, invited her to his office to offer his congratulations, and presented her with an autographed poem written by the Mayor, and with an autographed copy of BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY: A CENTENNIAL HISTORY.

STAFF IN THE LIMELIGHT

Daniel J. Koury, Music, has recently presented a series of three lectures with recorded music on Nineteenth Century Composers at the Stoneham Public Library. James Healy, Librarian at Stoneham, and formerly of General Reference, has reported that the lectures have been very well received with the attendance increasing with each successive lecture.

*

Mrs. Muriel C. Javelin, Deputy Supervisor, In Charge of Work with Adults, served as Consultant for a workshop on Effective Use of Films in Library Adult Education, sponsored by the Division of Library Extension, Maryland State Department of Education, and the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore, March 26 and 27.

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are notgiven consideration. The author of the article is known only to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of the articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

Last year His Honor, the Mayor, authorized department heads to grant a half holiday on the opening day of the Red Sox season to those city employees purchasing a ticket to the baseball game.

Somehow or other, the Library employees did not make the grade as city employees and were not offered the opportunity given to others of supporting the Red Sox on opening day.

The Mayor is again authorizing the department heads to grant a half holiday on Red Sox opening day to city employees purchasing tickets to the opening game.

In view of the recognition given to the Library employees as the outstanding government employee group in the Boston Red Feather campaign, may we hope that this year we be given at least as favorable consideration as the rest of the city employees.

His Honor is encouraging "all Boston business and industrial organizations to take similar steps to insure an opening day turnout at Fenway Park that will reflect suitable credit on the city..."

Should the Library do less?

Red Sox Red Feather Fan

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

In vain we have searched the Question Marks of February and March for traces of the vanished editorials. Where have they gone?

We did note a stout pledge of allegiance in the February issue, and a tenderly worded recap of the President's notes in March,--both located in the space customarily reserved for editorials.

If these sweet nothings were designed as editorials, either to incite or reflect staff ideas, one can only deduce that conditions and morale here are little less than Utopian. Might we ask to borrow the prescription or Milltown which induced this sudden hallucination?

Diogenes' Disciple No. 1

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

General Administrative Notice No. 28 of 27 March 1957 reads as follows:

"In the light of the lack of interest expressed in 1956 no recommendation is being made to the Trustees by the Director in 1957 for the offering of the usual four scholarships for library school study.

"This is in accordance with the suggestion made by the Trustees of the Library a year ago."

It is absolutely inconceivable that anyone would not be interested in $100. Instead of assuming "lack of interest" and coldly announcing that no scholarhips will be offered in 1957, why wasn't an attempt made to determine the real reasons for the lack of applicants?

Many of the interested people are former applicants who have been refused scholarships in previous years. They have no idea of the basis on which selections are made and little reason to believe they can meet these unknown qualifications. It is difficult to maintain one's self-respect while repeatedly asking for money and it is understandable that many people are unwilling to place themselves in a position to be further humiliated. If this can be construed as "lack of interest" then their assumption is correct: we

don't want the scholarships!

Diogenes' Disciple No. 2

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

General Administrative Notice No. 14 of 1 March 1957 notes "that members of the staff have been taking a week of vacation and splitting two work weeks, as for example, from a Wednesday through a Tuesday." Since splitting of two work weeks is sometimes the way we prefer to take vacation time and since it is often easier this way to arrange a department's schedule, there is apparently only one reason why we are now specifically forbidden to take vacation time in any way except in blocks of a week between Monday and Saturday - i.e. the four days a year which we are told we have earned but which we are cleverly denied. The many frustrating, inconvenient, and morale-lowering restrictions imposed upon us in order to accomplish this feat would be quite unnecessary if the administration would just make up its mind whether we earn vacation at the rate of 2 days per month (i.e. 24 days per year) or at the rate of 4 weeks per year (i.e. 20 days per year). Until the time when we either are allowed to take the 24 days we now earn or are told that we earn only the 20 days we are now allowed to take, we can expect this sort of frustration to continue. Call a spade a spade and let us take our vacation days any way we choose so long as service to the public is maintained!

Diogenes' Disciple No. 3

To the Soap Box Editor:

In the recent announcements of appointments to be made to titular positions, it should be noted that certain recommendations of the Personnel Committees appear to have been carried out.

"Pertinent experience", i.e. experience gained while working in a particular position, was not made a prerequisite, as such, in order that an applicant might be considered eligible for a position.

Such a policy, if it is a policy, by making minimum qualifications much broader, should permit many more individuals to qualify for filling vacancies. Giving such opportunities for advancement in several directions, should help to improve morale. Many have felt, heretofore, that opportunities for advancement were very restricted except in the narrow limits bounded by examinations plus pertinent experience gained in a particular department.

Again, is there reflected a new policy effecting greater ease of transfer, in the change of titles recently announced where there was a triple exchange of titular positions, accompanied by changes of title, even though there are different examination requirements for these positions, namely, Adults' Librarian, Book Selection Librarian, and School Librarian.

Can these announcements be regarded as changes in policy, that is, fundamental guides to action, which the staff may rely on, and upon which they may plan for the future? Or are they expedients, especially prepared for the cases in hand? Or are they to be like the point system, which was brought into action without prior announcement as a policy, and later summarily ended after many had spent much time and money preparing for promotion on this system?

Does any one know what the Library policy is for promotions? Does any one know what are the functions of the promotion panel? Do its members each have a vote? Are their findings binding? Do they make their recommendations to the Director? Or to the Trustees? Does the Personnel Committee know?

Who Knows

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

MAY 1957

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume XII, Number 5 May 1957

Publications Committee: Charles J. Gillis, Emilia Lange, Catherine D. O'Halloran, B. Joseph O'Neil, Claire P. O'Toole, Sarah Richman, Gerald L. Ball, Chairman

Publication date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material: The tenth of each month

EDITORIAL NOTES

In view of augmented work loads in libraries, rising tax rates and ever-increasing cost of living, we all recognize that we are faced with a dilemma. How can libraries meet their obligations to the patrons, taxpayers, and library workers without having some group or groups suffer?

Can we curtail service? Reduce the number of hours libraries are open, lower the standards for quality of service? Surely the temper of times shows a desire for more and better service. The ideals for which leaders have fought both in the library world and in the larger sphere of democratic ideals would suffer in any such retrenchment.

Can we expect library workers with altruistic idealism and a spirit of self-sacrifice to work for remuneration below that offered for comparable endeavors in other professions? There are a few who are so imbued with the ideals of librarianship, and whose needs are so simple (or who have a private income) that they might be willing or could afford to continue forever in an underpaid status. However, most of us have to face the problems of leading normal lives, and must meet the costs of food, shelter, clothing, recreation and education and want to contribute a fair share to churches, charitable institutions, community drives, etc. In short, we cannot expect to attract to library work or hope to keep in the profession qualified people unless we offer payment commensurate with the talents demanded.

Must then the taxpayers bear the costs no matter what? We know (since most of us are taxpayers and feel the pressure applied from both directions) that there is a limit to the amount of taxes that can be levied, without bringing into operation the law of diminshing returns.

What then can be done? The largest share of library budgets is appropriated for personnel. This is the area where substantial savings may be made. Yet how can this be accomplished without diluting library service, or working an injustice on the library employee. The problem is not peculiar to libraries. In any business where costs of personnel have loomed large in the budget, there are similar problems. How has the problem been faced?

By analyzing the type of work done by employees, and redistributing the tasks, great savings have been made. When repetitive tasks can be done by machinery, industry has employed machines to do the work. When tasks can be divided into clerical and professional, specialists in both these categories are employed to do the work for which they are best fitted. The insurance companies have problems that are similar in some ways to those of libraries. Personnel is a large item in their budgets. By specialization and division of labor, and by wholesale use of machines, such as those of IBM, for sorting, billing, searching and the like, they have made substantial reductions in their overhead.

Realizing that there are dissimilarities also between libraries and insurance companies, between tax-supported institutions and institutions with a dollar profit motive, yet there seems to be much that libraries could learn from industry. With personnel costs reduced without reducing the calibre of service, it may be possible to pay adequate salaries to library workers and to compete with industry and other professions in attracting the best qualified workers to libraries and keeping them.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 18 Catholic Library Association, New England Unit. Spring meeting, at Jeanne d'Arc Academy, 1071 Blue Hill Avenue, Milton, 2:30p.m.

May 26- 48th Annual Convention, Special
May 31 Libraries Association, Hotel Statler, Boston, Massachusetts

May 31 Annual Outing, B. P. L. Part-timers, Whalom Park, Fitchburg

June 22, A. L. A. Pre-Conference
June 23 Kansas City, Missouri

June 24- A. L. A. Annual Conference,
June 28 Kansas City, Missouri

PERSONNEL NOTES

New Employees
Robert G. Bailey, Book Purchasing
Rosalie R. Humphries-Mason, Mt. Bowdoin
Herman O. Peterson, Open Shelf
George L. Pillion, Kirstein

Transferred
Joseph N. O'Brien, from Central Charging Records to Buildings

Resignations
Ronald J. Arigo, Book Purchasing, to accept another position
Mrs Elaine R. Sherer, Mt. Bowdoin, to remain at home
Jeanne Staples, General Reference, to accept another position
Mrs Lila E. Trachtenberg, Mt. Bowdoin, moving out of Boston
Mrs Sydney L. Whitman, Central Charging Records, to remain at home.

BIRTHS

Mr and Mrs George T. Armstrong of Avon have announced the birth of a son, Michael Edward, on April 27. George formerly worked "out of" the Office of Records, Files, Statistics.

Mr and Mrs Sidney Quint and little daughter, Judy, are happy over the arrival of their baby boy, born May 8. Mrs Quint is the former Janet Rabinovitz of Open Shelf and Allston.

IN MEMORIAM

Friends who had known Mrs Ann Phyllis Thibodeau Kergis when she was on the staff of Book Stack Service were saddened to learn of her sudden death on May 13. Following their marriage Mr and Mrs Kergis lived in the Fenway area of Boston and she often came in to visit her old friends in the Library. More recently the family has been living in Holbrook, Massachusetts. Mrs Kergis is survived by her husband and four children. She was the neice of Ralph E. Ford, formerly of the Boston Public Library Binding Department.

QUARTER CENTURY CLUB

On April 24 the Quarter Century Club held its annual luncheon at the Vendome. About forty members attended. The guests of honor were Erwin D. Canham, Francis B. Masterson and Milton E. Lord. This was Mr Lord's first appearance as a member of the Club since February of this year marked his twenty-fifth year as Director. Both he and Mr. Canham spoke about the exciting plans for the proposed Library addition, plans which had been released to the newspapers that day. Mr Masterson's talk was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Dinner music was ably supplied by Martin Waters at the piano with vocal renditions by Mrs Aletha Munro, accompanied by Dan Koury.

Esther Lissner
Secretary

THE SOCIAL WHIRL

On Sunday, May 5, about thirty of her BPL friends gathered at a farewell dinner for Jeanne Staples at the China Star in Quincy. Jeanne, who leaves to head the Reference Department in the Oak Park Public Library in Illinois, was a busy guest of honor, snapping pictures of all present to keep as a souvenir of her stay in Boston. To help her remember this city, a guidebook to Boston was given to the former member of General Reference as well as a purse of money. Delicious Chinese food and excellent entertainment, the latter provided by such BPL stalwarts as Maurice Carbonneau and Eamon McDonough, combined to make the evening a memorable occasion.

Kathleen Hegarty

ARNAVETS

As is its annual custom, the Arnavets held its annual banquet on Monday evening, May 13, at the plush Vienna Room in Steubens. Following pleasant social hours in and around the city, fifty members gathered at Steubens and sat down to a delicious fillet mignon dinner. The evening was topped off by an excellent floor show headed by top personalities from T.V., Hollywood, and the Broadway stage. The Master of Ceremonies graciously introduced our Commander, Tom Daly, who responded by taking a bow. All in all, it turned out to be an evening of relaxation, enjoyment of good food, and excellent entertainment with a good time had by all.

Samuel Green

A WEDDING

Gilda Tecce, North End, became the bride of Paul W. Barrett of South Braintree on Sunday, April 28, at afternoon ceremonies at St. Leonard's Church, North End. The bride wore a formal bouffant gown of lily-white chiffon. It was fashioned with a draped cowl neckline with back panels cascasing into a short train. Her crown was of seed pearls and sequins and it held in place a short illusion veil. She carried a crescent of white orchids, baby carnations and stephanotis. Maid of honor was Adorna Orlandi of Boston, who was attired in a ballerina gown of tissue silk in aquamarine, fashioned in the style of the bride's gown, with matching scalloped cap. She carried a bouquet of pink tea roses and baby carnations caught in a miniature lace parosal. Salvatore Tecce, brother of the bride, served as best man and four friends of the couple acted as ushers. Following the ceremony, a reception was held at Whiton Hall in Dorchester. Many library friends of the bride were in attendance from the North End, East Boston, and Hyde Park branches. The bride's going-away outfit was a gray sheath suit-dress with white trimmings. She wore white accessories and black patent leather shoes and bag. The bride was radiant as she and her happy groom sped through the aisles of well-wishers at the reception on their way to a honeymoon in Florida.

CATHOLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

33rd Annual Conference

UMBRELLAS, ROCKING CHAIRS, FRAMED PAINTINGS, FM RADIOS - A GIVE-AWAY!

Filene's basement? Guess again. The Louisville Public Library will lend you three of the four items mentioned above on your library card. (The rocking chair is to relax in while you browse.) Also provided are wire grocery baskets in which to stack films, recordings, books, and children for the trip to the charging desk.

You don't believe this; but Anna Manning, Chief of Teachers, Martha Engler, Children's Librarian at South Boston, Mary Alice Rea, Book Purchasing, and Diane Farrell, West End, who represented the B.P.L. at the Catholic Library Association Conference in Louisville, April 22-26, swear that it's all so.

Louisville's allurements include cigarette factories, distilleries, and Churchhill Downs. However, our chief interest lay in the Conference sessions, particularly since our own Miss Engler was Chairman of the Elementary school Section of C.L.A. and had planned two excellent programs.

Better schools through better libraries was the theme of the Conference. At the General Session, William B. Ready, Director of Libraries at Marquette University, begged librarians to take upon themselves the responsibility of convincing school administrators of the importance of the library in education, lest the pressing need for more classroom space and more teaching personnel cause libraries and librarians to be legislated out of existence.

"A good library is basically an academy," said Dr. Thomas P. Neill, Professor of History at St. Louis University, at the Conference Luncheon. "It is a salon frequented by the best minds of all ages."

These ideas were reiterated and expanded by the speakers at Miss Engler's programs.

A book editor, Julie Kernan of Kenedy, and a book purchaser, Mrs Barbara Miller of the Louisville Public Library discussed the children's book market. Who sets the standards in children's book publishing? Teachers and librarians ought to do it, said Miss Kernan.

Miriam A. Wessel of the Detroit Public Library, speaking to an audience composed partly of parochial school teachers of the Louisville Archdiocese, outlined the services schools may receive from public libraries. A teacher-librarian, Sister Mary Electa, R.S.M., of St. James Parochial School, Jamestown, New York, urged teachers to concern themselves with getting better books for pupils --books of beauty, of literary and artistic merit, as well as of truth, books that will contribute to the mental, emotional, and spiritual growth of children. Rev. Nicholas J. McNeil, S. J., Librarian, Cheverus High School, Portland, Maine, asked for increased use of public library services by school teachers.

Visits to branch libraries, Bellarmine College, Nazareth College, University of Louisville, Gethsemane Monastery, a high school, Stephen Foster's "Old Kentucky Home," the Pro-Cathedral at Bardstown, filled up an already crowded schedule.

The junior member of the party came home excited, inspired, enthusiastic, and exhausted. She heartily endorses similar excursions to all young library-Anne's (and Albert's) and will talk at great length to anybody on the subject with not the slightest encouragement.

Diane G. Farrell

IT'S A SMALL WORLD!

While attending the Catholic Library Association Annual Conference in Louisville, Martha C. Engler, South Boston, was approached by former South Boston staff member, Eileen Hoar, now Sister Catherine Eileen, S.C.N., a teacher-librarian in the Louisville parochial schools. Sister Catherine Eileen wished to be remembered to all her old friends at the B.P.L., particularly Miss Florence Cufflin and Miss Mary Hackett.

TAKE A BOW!

Michael Sullivan, Buildings, for the excellent appearance of the grounds in the Library courtyard. Never in the memory of the oldest inhabitant has the courtyard looked as attractive as it has since Mr Sullivan has taken charge. 'Tis a green thumb you have!

BRANCH NOTES

Codman Square

A silver pin was presented to Taimi Lilja by tha staff at Codman Square on the occasion of her transfer to the School Issue section of Central Book Stock. Her friends at Codman Square, where she had been Adults Librarian for nine years, join in wishing Miss Lilja much happiness in her new position as Children's Librarian.

Virginia Dalton

TAKE A BOW!

Mrs Beryl Robinson, Children's Librarian, Egleston Square, for her successful monthly children's storytelling program on Channel 2, WGBH-TV. Mrs Robinson will appear before the TV cameras on Monday evening, May 20, at 5:30 P.M.

SPARES AND STRIKES

The Library Bowling League which had met weekly on Tuesday evenings from October to April concluded a highly successful season with a banquet at Steubens on April 29. A loyal group of twenty-five bowlers and their friends were toasted to a grand evening of fun and food. Each of the bowlers was given a Waterman's pen and pencil set. The winning team was presented with a money gift. The bowlers are looking forward to next year!

Frank Bruno

EDITOR'S NOTE: Frank Bruno's team won the championship!

* * * * * * *

Remember the needs of those served by CARE. Give now!

Special Committee for CARE

To the Soap Box:

Interesting to note that certain positions which could not be filled a few months back because it was considered that there were no qualified candidates, are now awarded to some of the same candidates.

Observer

To the Soap Box:

We hope that the plans for replacing the Sub-Professional Library Service with a Non-Professional Library Service will not be delayed much longer. In the latest discussions only three levels of non-professionals were mentioned. In earlier talks with the Director, there was mentioned the possibility of having the Non-Professional Service embrace all strictly non-bibliothecal positions, including all positions in the Division of Business Operations and most of the positions in the General Administrative Offices which are now filled by Sub-Professionals and Professionals. In other words it was suggested that there might be as many as 9 or 10 levels in the Non-Professional Service. It was suggested that "Non-Professional" would be "non" with respect to the library professional and would merely indicate that the position would not require library school training. However, it was admitted that many of these positions in the Non-Professional Service such as Registered Nurse, Personnel Officer and others, would be "professional" in their own right. This system is used in other large libraries.

How much better it would be if there were upper levels to which someone in the present Sub-Professional service could aspire without being restricted to advancement as a bibliothecal worker! Opportunities would be more numerous and varied! More pertinent experience and training could be recognized!

How much better off the bibliothecal service would be if entrance to the Professional Library Service had as minimum requirements, an undergraduate degree, and a graduate library school degree. Such requirements might make it easier to persuade the appropriating authorities that the pay scales for the Professional Library Service should be more in conformity with comparable libraries having similar strict requirements.

Yours for better library service

To the Editor:

General Administrative Notice, 1957 - No. 14 states quite definitely that a week of vacation will not be approved unless it is scheduled between Monday and Saturday. Rumor says that there may be circumstances under which exceptions to this ruling might be made. I can think of several excellent reasons why it might be necessary to request a week's vacation spread over two weeks if one is not to waste precious vacation time--especially as we are not permitted to take time off without pay. For instance--an invitation to a wedding or other festivity in a distant city which involves a set date or dates plus travel time--personal or family business involving circumstances beyond one's choice of dates--a job interview elsewhere involving travel time--caring for or transporting a child or a sick person--a college reunion outside the area--family illness--or even trying to match a vacation of a single week with someone else who must take a split-week vacation. The majority of the employees do not take such vacations regularly yet this ruling, like many others made to curb a few offenders, simply penalizes the majority, causes time wasted in special requests, and lowers staff morale by treating us like children, while those at whom the notice is directed will find some other way around the ruling or swear it was illness (with

the aid of a cooperating doctor). Please, can't the administration take it for granted that most of us are honorable adults and - if individuals offend, refuse permission to them another time instead of decreeing a thing can't be done and then making exceptions for a few?

"Ima Scapegoat"

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

What price morale in the Division of Reference and Research Services - or any ramaining faith in the examination system - when it was demonstrated in the recent appointments that one who has never taken the examinations pertinent to the department and has apparently had little real experience in extensive reference work in an open department, is considered a better choice for chief of that department than the qualified applicants who had complied exactly or much more closely to the so-called rules for advancement in that department? If such transfers can be justified at steps 1-3 and at the level of chief, why are employees considered incompetent for the same sort of appointment at steps 4 and 5? The logic which says the qualifications of a chief of a closed department, in another field of work entirely, are sufficient for such a transfer, should be valid at all levels throughout the Division to maintain that logic. Otherwise our advancement and examination system become a farce. Morale suffers again since there are few opportunities in the Division at best, and some of us have qualified under one or more systems and have been most impatiently waiting for recognition for up to some twenty-five years or more.

Morale less

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of the articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

A. L. A.

Going to Kansas City?

Believe in Librarianship as a profession?

To help answer either question, join the national professional library association N O W.

For application blanks
Contact:

Sarah M. Usher
Office of Records, Files,
Statistics

SECOND PROGRAM PLANNERS INSTITUTE

This Institute was held in the Lecture Hall on Tuesdays, May 7 and 14, in cooperation with the Adult Education Association of Massachusetts. Two hundred and eighty-five program chairmen, officers, and professional workers in educational, civic, health, fraternal, service, and religious clubs and organizations attended the two sessions.

On May 7 there were two concurrent sessions: How to Plan Programs for new program planners and How to Share Leadership in Programming for experienced program planners.

Dr. Kenneth D. Benne, Director, Human Relations Center, B. U., and Past President, Adult Education Association of the United States, served as Consultant. Among the many people who worked to make this second Institute as successful as the one held in October, 1956, was Edward T. Sullivan, Secretary-Treasurer, Cambridge Central Labor Union, who served as the chairman of the session on How to Plan Programs. Otis E. Finley, Industrial Relations Secretary, Urban League of Greater Boston, chaired the more advanced session, How to Share Leadership in Programming.

During the third session on May 14, the Problem Solving Clinic, members of the audience had a choice of participating in two consecutive round table discussions led by two experienced leaders on troublesome program situations. The topics included: How to discover the interest and needs of the members; How to involve members in programming; How to expand members' interests; How to deal with controversial issues; How to select and develop program committee members; How to deal with difficult members; How to evaluate programs; How to apply the results of evaulation; and How to improve facilities for film programs.

To acquaint program planners with community resources for program ideas and material, a Program Resources Directory compiled by a committee under Robert E. Segal, Executive Director, Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Boston, was distributed free. Material kits including other program aids were distributed at the sessions by a committee under the leadership of Mrs Grace F. Mattair, Special Manager, Boston Home and School Association.

Mrs Helen F. Hirson, Extension Librarian, and Alden Eberly, Regional Vice President, Adult Education Association of Massachusetts, served as the Co-Chairmen of the Second Program Planners Institute.

IN APPRECIATION

Dear Mr. Bluhm!

We have received your CARE parcel for which I should like to thank you very much. We are a family of refugees from East Prussia (Konigsberg) and having fled from there to the Altmark in the Soviet Zone, we had to flee a second time, again leaving everything behind, in order to reach Western Berlin. Our family, that is my parents, two brothers, and I have received a small flat only at the beginning of this year. We are very glad to have had the possibility for a new start. My father is still out of work, unfortunately, like so many refugees are here at Berlin. There are between two to six thousand refugees per week, coming to Western Berlin, that is between fifteen to twenty-five thousand, thirty-five thousand per month. As most of them have to stay here for quite some time, you can imagine that it is very hard to find either flat or work, and my father is quite lucky to have found the first. My twin brother Wolfgang is a student of agriculture and biology at the Technical University of Western Berlin while I, a student of medicine at the Liberal University have to pass the Western "Abitur" first, the one from the Soviet Zone not being acknowledgedby the West, before I can go on studying. Our Abitur would be the equivalent to your graduation from Junior College to Senior College.

My younger brother Hans is an apprentice with a firm doing electrical repair work.

Thanking you another time for your kindness in forwarding such a nice parcel to a very indigent family completely unknown to you and sending you the regards of all the family.

I am yours truly,
Manfred

Manfred Fischer
Sudende, Steglitzer Str. 7h
Westberlin, Germany

A SURPRISE PRESENTATION

Probably few of the people on the staff remember that two famous literary personalities--Boswell and Johnson--met on May 16. It is even doubtful if Milton E. Lord, the Director, had given this fact serious consideration on his Thursday morning walk from North Station to Copley Square, but it is a certainty that from now on he will remember it with pleasure. At 11:30 a.m. on May 16, in the Director's Office, before a small group of people assembled by the donor--Louise Stimson, the donor, her sister, Edna Stimson, both of Concord, a family friend, Mrs Robert Harwood of Cambridge, Mrs Lord, Miss Brockunier, and Mr Connolly--the Director was completely surprised when Miss Stimson presented him with a unique gift in honor of his completion of twenty-five years as Director of the Boston Public Library. The gift was a "de luxe" edition of JOHNSON'S DICTIONARY (Vol. I, A-KYD; Vol II, LAB--ZOO). Unlike most dictionaries, this contains a very special illustration--a diorama, entitled The First Meeting of Dr. Samuel Johnson and James Boswell, London, May 16, 1763, and is accompanied by a beautifully hand-written account of this first meeting.

Miss Stimson is readily and pleasantly identified as the one who created Dicken's London, Alice in Wonderland, and is currently at work on The Arabian Nights. Her letter, which is printed here with her permission, best explains her surprise gift to the Director:

Concord, Massachusetts
May 16, 1957

Dear Mr Lord:

I know it is generally supposed that a woman is never at a loss for words. There are moments, however, when we find it difficult to rise verbally to an occasion. Finding myself in this distressing state when congratulations are due you on successfully completing your 25th year as Director of the Boston Public Library, I decided I would give you an early edition of Johnson's Dictionary of the English Language, knowing that between the sturdy covers you will find words which fail me.

The "volumes" are yours to do with as you like. They were especially made to commemorate the pleasant anniversary, and to express my appreciation of all you have done to further my work.

"Sir", as the Great Lexicographer would say, my very good wishes, and may you continue to be, for at least twenty-five years more, Director and Librarian at the "B.P.L."!

Cordially yours,
LOUISE STIMSON

In view of the interest shown in Miss Stimson's earlier masterpieces, this latest artistic creation is on display in the Director's Office (enter through the Abbey Room) so that staff members may enjoy it.

Sarah M. Usher

BON VOYAGE
to

Madalene D. Holt, Branch Librarian, Washington Village, who sails on Saturday, May 18, on the Ille de France for seven weeks in the British Isles and on the continent.

Virginia Haviland, Readers Advisor for Children, who leaves on Friday, May 24, by plane for four weeks in England. She will visit Eileen Colwell, Head of Work with Children in the Hendon Libraries of London, and together they will tour parts of the British Isles. Just a year ago Miss Colwell was a visitor in this country and many may remember seeing her in the BPL or at the ALA meeting in Florida.

Rose Moorachian, Young Adults Librarian, Uphams Corner, who sails on the S. S. United States on June 1, for nine week's vacation in Germany, Switzerland, France, Italy, and Spain.

Francis R. Currie, Young Adults Librarian, Memorial, who flies to London on June 4 to begin a vacation of five weeks in England and Scotland, ending with one week in Paris.

ENGAGEMENT

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Margaret T. Brassil, Memorial, and Paul Cameron, a teacher at Roxbury Memorial High School for Boys. This is another "library-public" romance. The wedding date has been set for August 3, 1957.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE S. L. A. CONVENTION IN BOSTON
(Hotel Statler), May 26-31, 1957

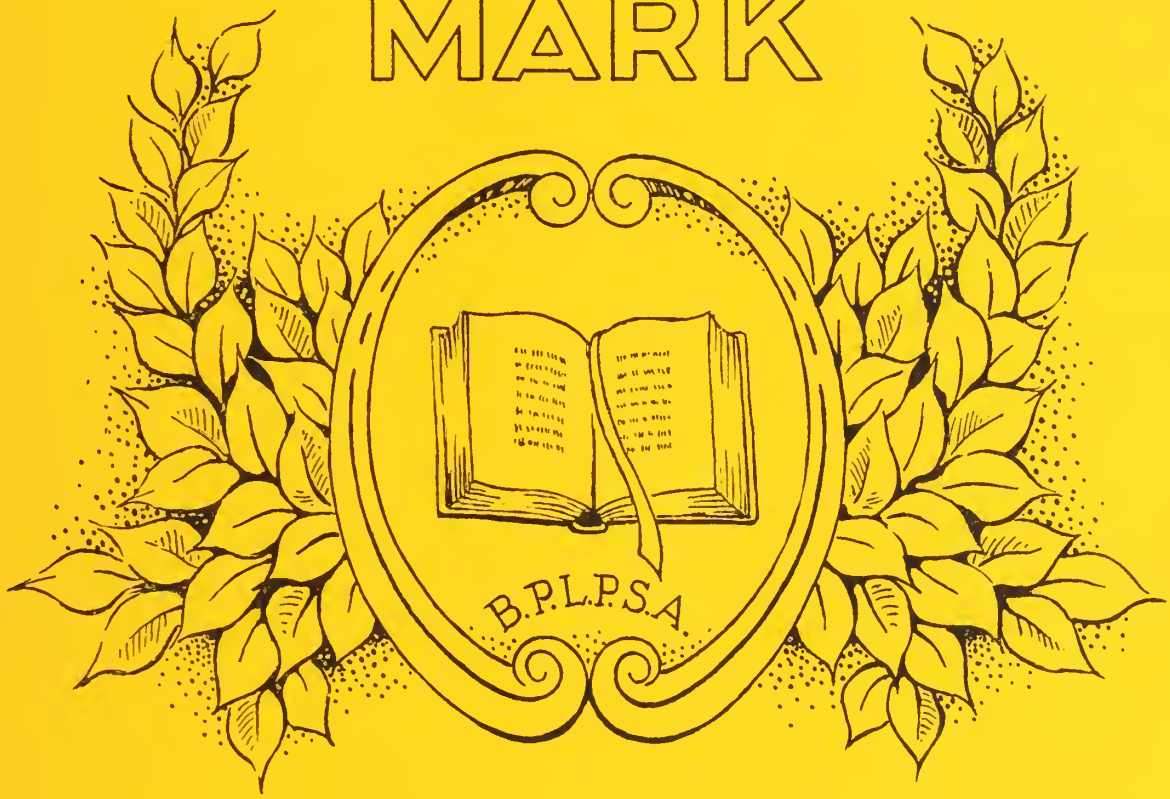
This year Boston is playing host to the National Convention. A quick look at the program should reveal several items of interest to all staff members. The Boston Chapter is sponsoring an Open House, Sunday evening, at 7:00 p.m. at the Imperial Ballroom of the Statler. The formal opening will be held on Monday at 9:00 a. m., with addresses of welcome by Mayor John B. Hynes and Director Milton E. Lord. The speaker on Monday morning will be Verner W. Clapp, former Assistant Librarian of Congress.

A symposium on "The Technical Writer and the Special Librarian," will be the feature of the Metals Division meeting on Monday afternoon.

The Geography and Map Division is sponsoring the Reverend Daniel Linehan, S.J., who is giving a talk on "Operation Deep Freeze," on Tuesday morning. Wednesday the Business, Financial, Social Science & Transportation groups will present a panel discussion on "Industrial Development." Saville Davis of the Christian Science Monitor will be the speaker at the Wednesday evening banquet, and on Thursday afternoon the Documentation Division will present a panel on "Matching the Documentation and Service Requirements of Special Libraries to the Capabilities of Machines."

Incidently, the BPL has an Open House reception to the visitors at the library at 10 o'clock on Monday evening, May 27, and has arranged a special Pops night on the Holiday, May 30.

THE Question MARK



THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

JUNE 1957

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume XII, Number 6 June 1957

Publications Committee: Charles J. Gillis, Emilia Lange, Catherine D. O'Halloran, B. Joseph O'Neil, Claire P. O'Toole, Sarah Richman, Gerald L. Ball, Chairman

Publication date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material The tenth of each month

EDITORIAL NOTES

At a recent library meeting one of the speakers gave a very eloquent presentation of the policy pursued in her library in regard to recruitment. A large part of the talk was devoted to the merits of pre-professional training and from the tenor of her talk one would easily receive the impression that pre-professional training was a particular invention in her library.

It so happens that Boston Public Library has been carrying on pre-professional training almost since the time it was started, but, we in Boston seem to lack the admirable practice pursued most successfully elsewhere in setting forth our good points.

The Boston Public Library has been in the fore-front in practically every library innovation. There are very few ideas that are suggested that have not been given consideration, if not actually tried out, in Boston, but it does appear that, when credit is given for library ideas, Boston seems to be behind the door. True, the Boston Public Library has the usual facilities that are needed to establish a public-relation set-up. There is an office doing publicity and public relations and there is a budget for publicity but we seem to lack a clearly defined public relations statement of the aims and ideals of the Library, which, if placed before the members of the staff, would help sell the Library and make it more meaningful to the community. We do make use of the newspapers and TV and radio and should make more use of them.

It is true that the Boston newspapers are a very difficult nut to crack in the matter of publicity. When one sees the amount of publicity received in other cities as compared with Boston, one should not be too critical because the Boston situation is very tight. Rather, in judging newspaper publicity by the Boston Public Library, one should judge that received by other institutions as a more fair guide.

In addition, we should see to it that the B.P.L. News, which is a well-written paper, comes out on time each month, and reaches as many people as possible. We should make better contact with our schools and colleges to enhance the already admirable programs set up in our Audio-visual, Never-Too-Late, and other work.

It is recommended that a statement of policy be drawn up so that staff members will be able to give more help to the persons who are engaged in trying to set forth the admirable features of this Library.

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

PERSONNEL NOTES

New Employees

Mary J. Schofield, Jamaica Plain
(formerly part-time at South Boston)
Myra A. Morse, Adams Street
(formerly part-time)
Joanne M. Coughlin, Book Preparation
(formerly part-time)
Jean M. Babcock, Central Charging Records
(formerly part-time at Charlestown)
Richard E. Brown, Central Charging Records
(formerly part-time in Music Department

Transferred

Josephine Del Longo - from Book Stack Service to Print

Resignations

Jeanne E. Staples, General Reference, to accept another position
Eugene B. Bowler, Book Stack Service, to attend Boston University
Bettina M. Coletti, General Reference, reasons of health
Mrs Suzanne R. Fishman, South Boston, to do graduate work
Mrs Mildred Maloof, Jamaica Plain, to remain at home
Mrs Sheila F. Borges, Bookmobiles, to remain at home
Mrs Eunice R. Lerch, Audio-Visual, to remain at home

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Pauline Cray, Book Purchasing, daughter of Mrs Alice Cray, Book Preparation, Pauline, a recent graduate of Girls' Latin School, was awarded a four year scholarship to Boston State Teachers' College.

Miss Jean Bagley, part-time assistant at Adams Street, has been selected as one of the fifteen winners of AMVETS (American Veterans of World War II and Korea) Memorial Scholarships after a nation-wide competition. Her grant is for $500.00 for the use at the college of her choice. A graduate of Dorchester High School, Jean plans to enter Northeastern University to study engineering.

Pauline Winnick, Readers Advisor for Young Adults, recently named as Vice-President and President Elect of the Association of Young People's Librarians, 1957-1958.

BON VOYAGE TO A.L.A. ATTENDANTS

Virginia Haviland, Member, Executive Board, Children's Library Association
Muriel C. Javelin, President, Adult Education Division
Mildred C. O'Connor, Chairman, Nominating Committee, Cataloging and Classification Section, Library Resources and Technical Services Division
Member, Nominating Committee, Library Resources and Technical Services Division
Member, Committee on the Catalog Code Revision
Member, Committee on the 16th Edition of the Dewey Decimal Classification
Edna G. Peck, Chairman, Notable Books Council, Public Libraries Division
Pauline Winnick, Vice-President(President-Elect), Association of Young People's Librarians
Elizabeth L. Wright, Chairman, A.L.A. Nominating Committee
Evelyn B. Marden
Pauline A. Walker

SOCIAL WHIRL

On the night of June 6, the staff of Branch Issue tendered a shower for Mrs Claire O'Toole at the home of Anne Brennan. It was a delightful affair and was attended by many of her friends. An unusual fruit punch containing floating strawberries and cherries was served before Claire unwrapped her many lovely gifts. She received an assortment of tiny garments in both pink and blue and also many useful items for the coming blessed event. Later in the evening, delicious refreshments were served with coffee. The centerpiece of roses was beautifully arranged and gave a festive air to the occasion. Everyone had a good time and I am sure they join with me in wishing Claire good luck and best wishes with the Next Little O'Toole.

WEDDINGS

John A. Brackett, formerly part-time at School Issue, later stationed with the Army at Ft. Niagaria, was married on Saturday, May 4, to Joan M. Hansen, at St. Mary's Shrine Church, Buffalo, N.Y.

On Saturday, June 1, Renee De Millar of the staff of the Office of Reference and Research Services was married to Ambellur N. D. Frederick of Manjeri, India. The marriage took place in Trinity Church.

The bride was gowned in a blouse of gold cloth and a beautiful sari of sheer white silk woven with gold sent to her from India. On her head she wore a finger-tip veil with a band of satin jasmine flowers on her blonde hair. The groom wore the traditional Indian shivani with white jodhpurs. A brilliant note was introduced by the groom's mother who wore a vivid blue and gold sari and by the delicate and colorful dress of other Indian guests.

The ceremony included the blessing of the gold chain and cross worn by married Christian women in India.

Later, at the International Institute, the charming Indian customs of burning sticks of incense and of sprinkling rose water on the members of the wedding party and the guests, and applying to their arms sandalwood perfume, lent an exotic touch to the reception.

The couple plan to remain in the Boston area until Frederick completes his work for a Ph. D. before making their home in India.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

At a meeting of the Executive Board on June 3, one of the items of business was a resolution adopted by the board that the President of the Professional Staff Association communicate directly with the Administration of the library in order to ascertain if any information was available in regard to the adoption of new salary schedules. Information received by the President indicated that the question of such salary schedules would be on the agenda for a meeting of the Board of Trustees to be held on June 7. Subsequent information received prior to the Business Meeting of June 10 revealed that no action had been taken but that the matter would be discussed at a later meeting to be held on June 13.

The Spring Business Meeting of the PSA was held in the Lecture Hall on Monday, June 10. Because of vacations, examinations, illness, and sundry other factors attendance was light and couriers were dispatched to the highways and byways to secure a quorum. The meeting was a brief one, featuring one item of new business that occassioned some discussion. Said item was a motion adopted by the meeting that the Professional Staff Association support the City, State, and County Municipal Employees Union in their efforts to secure salary increases for 1957.

Indications are that some of the units have not sent in their PSA dues and/or names of new members. The cooperation of Staff Representatives in this matter is requested in order that the Association have the highest possible enrollment of members.

Because of the fact that no members of the Executive Board were planning to be in attendance at the ALA convention, the Board voted to request the Trustees of the Library, that if any money was to be awarded to a representative of the PSA it would be given to the Editor of the Question Mark as official representative of the PSA.

William Casey,
President

BPL RECEPTION FOR SLA

On the evening of May 27, the SLA members, in Boston for their national convention, were invited to a reception and open house in the Boston Public Library. The day had been humid and threatening but a staff member assured us that "Mr. Lord always has good weather for anything he plans". After a brief thunderstorm in the late afternoon, the clouds did indeed clear and Mr. Lord's luck held true yet another time.

At ten p.m. the guests entered the library from the Boylston Street door and sauntered from the Newspaper Room to the corridor. So many exclamations of delight were issuing from the courtyard that almost all of the new arrivals strolled out there. It really was beautiful that evening in our courtyard--bright pink geraniums, green lawn, tinkling fountain and soft music through the open balcony door. The courtyard library, with its gay covered books and striped awnings, attracted the enthusiastic attention of our visitors and some were so fascinated with this lovely spot that they were content just to relax in its quiet beauty and go no further.

The more stalwart souls, who ventured within, were well rewarded. Our marble entrance hall lends itself beautifully to festive occasions. Caterers had set up serving tables between the pillars, offering punch and cookies to the guests. Mr. Lord, resplendent in a white formal coat, greeted visitors at the foot of the staircase. On the landing an ensemble of musicians was playing. Louie Ugalde and Marty Waters were part of this group, the latter regarding his instrument, a portable piano, with some disfavor. Potted palms and bouquets of flowers lent additional beauty to the halls and galleries. In the Puvis de Chavannes and Sargent Galleries and the Abbey Room, crowds walked slowly about admiring the works of art and the loveliness of the setting. Refreshments were also served in the Pompeian and Venetian Alcoves.

Many rooms were open and staff members explained the functions of the departments to the visiting librarians. Girls in summer dresses were stationed about the halls, greeting the guests and acting as hostesses.

When the closing hour of twelve arrived, many people were still wandering about the building, sitting in the courtyard, or discussing problems with other librarians in the special department fields. The open house was a great success, one of the highlights of the convention. References were made many times in the next few days to the charm and beauty of our building and the warm hospitality of our host and staff.

Grace M. Marvin

MARY U. NICHOLS BOOK PRIZE AWARD

Two hundred people attended the Ninth Annual Award of the Mary U. Nichols Book Prizes at North End on Tuesday evening, May 28. Milton E. Lord, Director of the Library, awarded "Stevenson's Home Book of Modern Verse" to Mildred Maffei "The Spy", by Cooper, to Roger Mustone. The books were handsomely bound in full leather with gold tooling and each book contained the Memorial Book Plate designed by Arthur Heintzelman, Curator of Prints. These prizes, awarded each year "to the North End boy and to the North End girl who in their senior year at a North End high have excelled in their English studies", are given in memory of the late Mary U. Nichols, who served as Branch Librarian at North End from 1941 to 1948.

Dr. Gerardo M. Balboni gave the address of the evening. He spoke on medical progress during his practice of over fifty years as physician in the North End and as staff member of the Massachusetts General Hospital. A woodwind ensemble, made up of students from the Boston Conservatory of Music, provided the musical portion of the program. The Reverend Father Salvatore O.F.M. represented the community. John A. Scanga of the MichelAngelo Adult Education Center served as chairman, and Geraldine D. Herrick, Branch Librarian, gave the welcome.

After the program, the guests enjoyed punch and cookies served by the staff and by members of the Young Adult Council. The people of the community enjoyed meeting Library personnel, former North Enders, including Emelia DeFerrari, whose brother John DeFerrari was one of the Boston Public Library's great benefactors, personal friends of the late Mary U. Nichols, and people interested in the North End and its Library.

The following morning, the entire program was described in detail by Dr. Comito in his regular news broadcast in Italian on WBOS, sponsored by Il Progesso, the New York daily newspaper in Italian which is widely read in this area.

"AT HOME" WITH THE LORDS

The weatherman cooperated one-hundred percent on Saturday, May twenty-fifth, and brought forth a day which was as perfect a speciman of springtime in New England as the most ardent New Englander could wish for when exhibiting his portion of this area to visitors. On that afternoon Director and Mrs Lord were "at home" to some thirty from among the general officers of the Library from Deputy Supervisor up, and some from the General Administrative Offices group.

The party had been divided into three specific periods--(1) playtime, when croquet and other outdoor sports were in order, and when a refreshing drink of cold, cold water from the old oaken bucket was enjoyed by each new arrival; (2) pre-supper cheer served on the large, screened-in porch; and (3) the informal supper--highlighted by delicious breads and cakes baked by Mrs Lord and ice cream made in the old-fashioned, hand-cranked freezer--which was partaken of in various parts of the beautiful old home which has been in

Mrs Lord's family for ten generations. (Since then the eleventh generation has arrived in the person of the Lord's first grandchild, Katrina Van Dusen, born on June 4th)

Of great interest to those who had not had an opportunity to see and hear about it at Central was the recent gift to Mr Lord on the completion of his twenty-five years as Director of the Library--the two-volume JOHNSON'S DICTIONARY with the diorama depicting the first meeting between Boswell and Johnson, made and presented to him by Louise Stimson.

The party in the country was enjoyed by all who came, and the cordial hospitality of the host and hostess and their family will be remembered with pleasure.

Sarah M. Usher

FATHER GREATOREX

Rev. Robert W. Greatorex, 61 Lawrence St., Charlestown, a former employee in the Stockroom, offered his first Solemn Mass Sunday, May 26 at 10 A M in St. Mary's Church, Charlestown.

In June, 1956, Father Greatorex was given a Chalice in memory of John T. Kyle by his many friends and co-workers in the Library.

James P. Mooers

BRANCH NOTES

Brighton

The rainy evening of May the 14th will long live in the history of the Brighton Branch. It was then that we were besieged by more than five hundred boys and girls who had come to see and hear Nora Unwin, well-known author and illustrator of children's books, here in celebration of the Herald-Tribune Spring Book Festival. Evidently enthusiasm for our program was running higher than any of us suspected, and hordes of children began to descend upon the Library long before the appointed hour. Nora Unwin was quite overwhelmed, but performed nobly at her easel, and the Staff eventually recovered from the onslaught. Several hundred boys and girls could not, of course, be admitted, and they are still turning up to ask when a return engagement will be held!

MATTAPAN

Graduation day festivities for members of the pre-school story hour group were held on May 28 and, among other things, included a lively party for the tiny tots. One little four-year old who had come to the story hour faithfully every week and who was always "as good as gold" suddenly burst into tears and ran wailing to his mother. After some questioning by his perplexed parent, it developed that he was allergic to parties! Fortunately, the other thirty-odd children present were not; in fact, the librarian had to make a twenty-yard dash to the nearest drug store for more ice cream when she discovered that supplies were running low.

One mother who had moved to Quincy in the middle of the year, and another who had moved to Milton mysteriously showed up at the story hour with their offspring, despite the fact that neither had been invited to come. Several parents brought cameras, including one who came equipped with a movie camera, and after having photographed the surprisingly cooperative children, insisted on taking pictures of the library teachers as well.

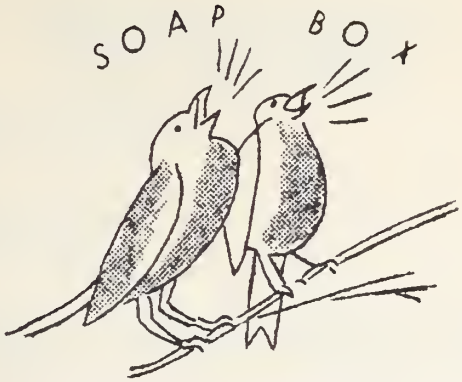
The presentation to the boys and girls of candy-filled May baskets and diplomas for graduation from "liberry school" brought a very gay time to a happy end. All the mothers, however, decided to go on a picnic to the Blue Hills on the following Tuesday and extended a cordial invitation to the librarians to join them. The invitation, of course, was declined, but most reluctantly so.

1957 MAYOR'S CHARITY FIELD DAY

To the Editor:

Our deepest thanks to the entire Library Staff for its wholehearted and generous support of the 1957 Mayor's Charity Field Day. A record $364. was contributed by the Staff through the purchase of tickets for the event. The sum raised was 20% higher than that of last year. A special vote of thanks to Mrs. Rosemarie Mulcahy and Barbara Feeley of the Business Office staff whose hard work and inspiring salesmanship aided in making this year's Field Day, from the standpoint of the Library, a financial success.

Samuel Green
Library Chairman



To the Soap Box:

The employees of the BPL always go over the top when asked to contribute to the Community Fund or to purchase tickets to the Mayor's Field Night. But the BPL employees are often at the bottom of the pile when any consideration is being handed out.

Why were not any library workers who purchased tickets to the Mayor's Field Night allowed to leave work early so that they could have supper at home before going to Fenway Park? Other city departments excused workers early. It has been the practice in other years to excuse early those library workers who purchased tickets and who could be spared without detriment to service to the public.

Why could not some one in authority call City Hall and find out if it were permitted this year? If some one did do so, why didn't they let the departments and branches know so that rumors detrimental to morale and to respect for those in authority could be nipped in the bud?

Doesn't any one care?

Bitter Buyer

To the Soapbox:

May one who is forced to conform to the examination system requirements and who must go through an interview with several persons, if he wishes a promotion, call attention to the very flagrant abuse of this system in the "Announcement of an Appointment to be Made as Assistant to the Division Head in the Division of Business Operations"?

All other announcements of appointments to be made state that "the requisite examinations for the specific department must be passed, and state other qualifications." Are we, in this announcement, intended to draw inference that there are no specific qualifications to be met other than pleasing the Division Head with our personality, that no examinations are required, that even a sub-pro is eligible for consideration for a position with a salary equal to that of a Chief of a Department? Does the Assistant to the Division Head work any more closely with him than a Reference Librarian with a Chief or an Adult Librarian or Children's Librarian with the Branch Librarian?

And why should the majority of the staff struggle to pass examinations and satisfy a panel of two to four individuals through an interview, while even one appointment is excluded from the pattern--for nothing more apparent than a personal preference. Doubtless other chiefs, etc., would enjoy picking their own assistants, too! And has anyone ever counted the cost per hour in money of these interview panels?

This exception to the rule will further lower the morale of the staff and any of its tiny bit of lingering faith in the examination and promotional system.

Sauce for the Goose....

THE DIRECTOR GOES TO ROME

In a week-long program from June 27 to July 4 the City of Boston will be the toast of the City of Rome. Nearly 100 Bostonians will go to the Eternal City to take part in this celebration to further strengthen ties between the two cities. The Salute to Boston week has been arranged by officials of Rome as a return for the hospitality extended by Boston to the Mayor of Rome and other officials in a similar program here eighteen months ago.

At the request of the Mayor of Boston and the United States Information Agency the Trustees authorized the Director to take to Rome a Boston exhibit of maps, old prints, and photographs from the collections of the Library to be set up at the Palazzo Braschi to afford the citizens of Rome an opportunity to view both historical and modern Boston.

The Director left for Rome on Sunday, June 16, and is expected to return to Boston during the week of July 8.

ENGAGEMENT

Announcement has been made of the engagement of Mary A. Casey, Book Stack Service, and Joseph DeRosa of New York City.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIST OF LIBRARY STAFF ROMANCES

Samuel A. Chevalier
Bertha Richmond

*Evelyn Goode
Thomas Kane

*Submitted by Alice M. Jordan, Supervisor in charge of work with Children, Emeritus

IN MEMORIAM

Walter B. Coleman

The Library staff was saddened when it learned of the death, on June 8, of Walter B. Coleman, a Junior Building Custodian at Central Library where he had worked since December 1944, with the exception of one year spent at West End. Walter was liked by all who knew him. His cheerful disposition and willingness to do a favor were well known to the staff, especially to the men who came into daily contact with him.

His duties at Central Library included responsibility for keeping the men's facilities in Stack I clean and in order. This work he did well and with pride. His coffee-making ability made him an important asset at the men's annual open house during the Christmas season.

Although much sicker in the last months than he ever let on, Walter always had a smile and a kind work for all. The ever-present cigar and his genial greeting will be genuinely missed. Walter's fondness for a good cigar was well known, and one was placed in his breast pocket before he was taken to his final resting place.

* * * * *

Remember the needs of those served by CARE. Give now!

Special Committee for CARE

MEET THE NEW ARRIVALS

Robert Gardner Bailey, Book Purchasing, comes to BPL from Brighton High School (1956) via Marsh McLennon (insurance brokers). At Brighton Bob took the college course and managed to acquire some typing skill which will come in handy in Book Purchasing. He plans to attend the evening classes at Emerson College, School of Broadcasting, and after obtaining a degree get a job in Radio and television. Bob is very interested in chess and would like to meet some fellow chess players.

*Mrs Rosalie R. Humphries-Mason(Mt.B) was born in Cuba but has lived for some time in this country. She is constantly adding to her large collection of books and phonograph records. The latter embraces the whole field of music from jazz to Bach. Mr. Humphries-Mason is a research specialist in the field of religion.

* * * * * *

A. L. A.

Going to Kansas City?

Believe in Librarianship as a profession?

To help answer either question, join the national professional library association N O W.

For application blanks
Contact:

Sarah M. Usher
Office of Records, Files,
Statistics

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

JULY 1957

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume XII, Number 7 July 1957

Publications Committee: Charles J. Gillis, Emilia Lange, Catherine D. O'Halloran, B. Joseph O'Neil, Claire P. O'Toole, Sarah Richman, Gerald L. Ball, Chairman

Publication date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material The tenth of each month

EDITORIAL NOTES

One of the members of the Publications Committee advanced the admirable suggestion that instead of printing an Editorial this month we should start the issue off with a blank page captioned "THIS IS JULY! PLEASE WRITE YOUR OWN EDITORIAL!" The idea had much merit in as much as this is the season for relaxation and one should be at peace with the world and enjoying the summer.

However, we have decided to follow the method used in business and take semi-annual stock. Among our assets we can look forward with pleasure to the long awaited raise ($4.75) which is due in September. There is an improved salary scale in the offing which should, we hope, stem the tide of resignations. Provision has been made to enable subprofessional members of the staff to reach their maximum in a shorter time, which involves a change in the examination system. Announcements of vacancies have been made and filled with satisfying rapidity.

Looking forward to better things, we hope to see the proposed salary revisions carried forward to successful fruition in the remainder of 1957 and hope that when the scale of increments is set up it will be in keeping with today's standards and today's costs of living. To complete our many hopes and dreams for a good future, we wish that some of the increases in the Blue Cross - Blue Shield rates might be absorbed by the City so that we may receive the same benefits now extended to the employees of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Considering the things which have already come to pass and things we hope will come to pass, 1957 might be a banner year!

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

REMEMBER THE NEEDS OF

THOSE SERVED BY CARE.

GIVE NOW!

Special Committee for CARE

PERSONNEL NOTES

New Employees

Elsie K. Brainard, Uphams Corner
Walter C. Cavalieri, Audio-Visual
Annie L. McLeod, Charlestown
Roslyn F. Mateles, Connolly
Miriam E. Mendelson, Central Charging Records
Edmund Mietzner, Open Shelf (formerly part-time)
Faith T. Minton, East Boston (formerly a member of the staff of Book Stack Service)
Caperton Rosenberger, Bookmobile
Rose E. Stinson, Washington Village
Patricia M. Tracey, Personnel Office

Married

Marilyn Kind, Cataloging and Classification (R and RS), to Robert N. Currier, June 18, 1957

Transferred

Joyce P. Ellis, from West End to Connolly
Myra Morse, from Adams Street to Dorchester
Peter Simoglou, from Open Shelf to Dorchester

Resignations

Henry C. Camillo, Audio-Visual, to attend summer school
Edward X. Casey, Cataloging and Classification (R and RS), to accept the position of Librarian at Stonehill College
Norma A. Lowery, Parker Hill, to attend summer school
Jaya L. Ramulu, Dorchester, to be married and live in Hawaii
Edward B. Ravish, Book Purchasing, to attend summer school
Natalie J. Rostau, Charlestown, to accept a position with the Needham Public Library
Mrs Arlene Saffron, East Boston, to remain at home
Mrs Agnes N. Sweeney, Connolly, to do part-time work in remedial reading at the Massachusetts General Hospital

ALUMNI NOTE

Mrs Phyllis L. Barclay, formerly Children's Librarian, Uphams Corner, has recently been appointed Children's Librarian in Darien, Connecticut.

NEW EDITIONS

Mr and Mrs Alfano proudly announce the birth of their Daughter, Maria on May 13. The proud "Mama" is the former Dulia Capobianco, who resigned from East Boston at the time of her marriage.

Mr and Mrs John Pennacchio are happy to tell of their new daughter, Jean Marie, born June 6. Mrs Pennacchio, better known as Rita, formerly worked at East Boston and Central Charging Records.

Mr and Mrs Blair Benner are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Dorcas Star, born Monday, July 8, 1957. Marie is on leave from Connolly and Blair formerly worked in Audio-Visual.

Mr and Mrs Richard Malany proudly announce the birth of their son, Gregory Sean, born June 22, 1957. Mrs Malany is on leave from the Rare Book Department.

SEMPER FIDELIS

On July 12, 1957 the Business Office suffered a great loss to the Marine Corps. William "Bill" Hurley has been with us since March 27, 1957 and was popular with everyone. We'll miss his wonderful sense of humor, his dancing feet and speedy delivery of our weekly pay checks. Bill was presented with a beautiful Benrus watch as a parting gift. His friends were taking no chances that he should be late for any engagements at Paris Island. We wish him the best of luck and hope the Marine Corps appreciates him as much as we did.

BON VOYAGE

Monday evening, June 24, the staff of Kirstein Business Branch had a farewell dinner at Patten's for Winifred Root, who left three days later on a trip to Europe, during which time she will visit twelve countries and attend most of the music and drama festivals being presented there this summer.

After dinner the staff had been invited to Rose Cimmaruta's home in East Boston, where we all enjoyed seeing the slides of her wedding trip in Italy last fall.

A birds-eye view of the A. L. A. Kansas City Conference

In this case "the bird" happens to be one of the nine Boston Public Library staff members attending the Conference: the "view" is strictly Eastern.

A two-day pre-Conference which took the form of an Adult Education Institute - "An Introduction to Community Study" - was guided to a successful conclusion by Mrs Muriel Javelin in her capacity as Chairman, Executive Board of the Adult Education Division. Following the Adult Education Institute, the 76th Annual A. L. A. Conference opened in Kansas City, Missouri, Monday, June 23, 1957.

Kansas City proved to be an ideal spot for such a convention. It is easily accessible by rail or air from any part of continental United States. It well merits its name "The Heart of America." It is a city of beautiful parks, fine homes, comfortable hotels and excellent restaurants. If the week of June 23-29, 1957 is any criteria, and all Kansas citians assured us it was not, it is a city of ideal weather. The local Committee and A. L. A. Headquarters Staff must have worked very intelligently and very hard to produce such an efficient and smooth-running conference. One thing which made the Conference especially successful was the Municipal Auditorium with its high arena, large and artistic Music Hall, its attractive Little Theatre, which was far from "little",and its many conference rooms and spacious Exhibit Halls. The fact that the Auditorium was connected by an underground passage to several hotels made the delegates almost wish for more than the couple of cloud burts which attended their stay. The Conference was not a large one, about 3,000, but it was a busy and enthusiastic one.

General Sessions. The three general sessions, all held in the Music Hall were well attended. At the First General Session the delegates were officially welcomed by a representative of the Mayor of the city, a most ardent advocate of the charms of Kansas City. The main address of the First General Session was given by John W. Gardner, President, Carnegie Corporation of New York. The highlight of the Second General Session was an address by President Harry S. Truman who spoke on the preservation of presidential papers. With a sense of Missourian hospitality and many evidences of his inherent dry humor, Mr. Truman won the hearts of his listeners, even unto that of this dyed-in-the-wool Republican. He also revealed that he speaks with authority on the preservation of presidential papers since the time of Washington until the opening of the Truman Library, July 6, 1957, which houses the documents and mementoes of his own presidential years.

The Third General Session which closed the Conference on Friday evening was highlighted by the inaugural address of the charming in-coming President, Lucile M. Morsch, Library of Congress, Washington, D. C. The theme of Miss Morsch's address was international cooperation at the library level.

The Council and Membership Meetings were given over primarily to reports relating to A. L. A. reorganization. Many reorganization plans were adopted but it is sufficient to mention here that it was voted to move A. L. A. headquarters to Washington in the not too distant future, provided that adequate quarters can be found and subject to a polled vote of the membership. So vast is the range of the annual conference and so diversified the interests represented, it would be impossible to give an adequate coverage. A few highlights of special interest to B.P.L. staff members must suffice.

Boston delegates felt very much at home at the Tuesday morning meeting of the Association of Young People's Librarians, at which Jane A. Ellstrom presided and Margaret C. Scoggin, Young People's Services, New York Public Library, spoke on the challenging topic of First catch your hare.

Two SORT (Staff Organizations Round Table) meetings were held and both reflected a real interest in specifically staff activity. The first session was a panel discussion by five SORT members from midwestern libraries, on the role of the staff organization in promoting better human relations within the library. The SORT business meeting was devoted to election of officers followed by a very lengthy discussion on SORT's place in the new reorganization scheme and the ways whereby SORT can be re-vitalized. This discussion was sparked by the report of a survey made by Mrs Alpha Myers of Newark, N. J. who has been an ardent SORT worker for several years.

Two changes in Notable Books procedure should be of interest to public libraries. Until January 1, 1958, the Notable Books project will continue under the sponsorship of the Public Libraries Division (to be known as the Public Libraries Association under the re-organization plan) which gave it birth and nurtured it during its existence to date. After January 1, 1958, the Notable Books Council will be transferred to the sponsorship of the Adult Education Division, which under the reorganization becomes the Adult Services Division. At the final session of the Public Libraries Division business meeting, it was voted to issue the 1957 Notable Books list in conjunction with National Library Week to be observed March 16-23, 1958. This will give the Notable Books list the benefit of the publicity which will launch National Library Week, and will give added weight to National Library Week which will have for its general theme the distribution and use of books.

Although the five days of the Conference were packed with activity and each day was generally at least eighteen hours long, it was not all work. There were periods of rest, relaxation and good fellowship. The Newbery-Caldecott Awards dinner is always a highlight of any conference. There it is that the young ladies and ladies not so young burst forth in evening gowns, orchids flourish and hair-do's are dazzling; the men show their appreciation for the event in a less spectacular manner. A boutoniere, here and there, suffices the members of the conservative sex. The whole effect of the 1957 dinner was one of spendor and festivity, for the floral decorations softened the somewhat austere setting of the high Arena. It was reported that over 1,100 attended the dinner, the largest one ever held.

Thursday dinner hour was given over to Library School reunion dinners. The Simmons dinner was held at The Golden Ox, a block away from the Kansas City stockyards and famous for its steaks. Mrs Elizabeth Wright brought greetings from the College and outlined the Simmons development plan which is to be begun in the not too distant future.

One of the most pleasant features of the Conference was the reception for members and their guests given by the Board of Trustees of the Linda Hall Library following the first General Session on Monday evening, June 24. The local committee provided transportation from the auditorium to the Linda Hall Library and return, a distance of several miles through some very interesting sections of the city. On the "free" afternoon - Wednesday - two tours were offered; one to the Johnson County Library, the University of Kansas, Nelson Gallery of Art, etc.; the other to the Truman Library and Old Independence. Some of the Boston delegates chose the latter. Although the new Truman Library was not open, since the Construction had been delayed by a carpenter's strike, it was interesting to see the handsome $1,800,000 limestone structure and to hear something about its construction and proposed use from the newly appointed Director. On the return trip punch and home-made cookies were served by the staff of the Van Horn Branch Library where the group spent a pleasant social half-hour.

The Boston Public Library was well represented in the activities of the National Conference this year. Mrs Elizabeth Wright was elected Council Member, is the present Chairman of the Nominating Committee and was the chief speaker at the Simmons Dinner; Mrs Muriel Javelin as Past President of the Adult Services Division is a member of the Executive Board of that Division and a Member of the A. L. A. Program Evaluation and Budget Committee; Virginia Haviland was a member of the A. L. A. Committee on Organization and continues as Co-Chairman of the International Committee and member of the Executive Board, Children's Library Association and Newbery-Caldecott Award Committee. Pauline Winnick is the Vice-President, President-elect of the Association of Young People's Librarians, which under the reorganization has become the Young Adult Services Division. Mildred O'Connor is Chairman, Nominating Committee, Cataloging and Classification Section, Library Resrouces and Technical Division, Member, Nominating Committee, Library Resources and Technical Division, Member, Committee on Catalog Code Revision, Member, Committee on 16th Dewey Decimal classification. Edna G. Peck is Chairman, Notable Books Council, 1957.

The three B. P. L. delegates at large - Pauline Walker, West Roxbury, Evelyn Marden, East Boston and Florence Connolly, Fine Arts - also found themselves actively engaged in several projects, attending Adult, Young Adult, Children's and other meetings.

Taken as a whole, it was a highly successful Conference on all counts - information, stimulation, and mastication.

EDNA G. PECK

IN MEMORIAM

Memories of Josephine Day go back a long way. Miss Day entered the Library service in 1899 in the "Issue" Department, where she worked at various "desks" - time tray, return desk, fine desk and finally as switchboard operator. Previous to her library employment, she attended Notre Dame Academy and the New England Conservatory of Music.

Those who remember Josephine will think of a small, gray-haired, smiling person. She was pleasant to work with, friendly and helpful, and had a good sense of humor. Never rugged, but thin and frail, she retired in 1942 because of illness.

She then lived with cousins in Worcester and thus lost touch with her Library friends. Later she returned to a nursing home in Dorchester. Of late years, her Library correspondence was confined to Christmas cards, the same cheery card every year, a Christmas scene and a small insert of flowers from the Holy Land.

When Christmas comes this year, we will miss her, but will be happy that she is spending her days in the true Holy Land.

Anna L. Manning

NEW BOOK IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Library Science

U. S. Library of Congress. Processing Filing rules for the dictionary catalogs of the Library of Congress. Washington, 1956.

A HAIR-RAISING STORY

We've heard of all kinds of bookmarks - money, matches, cookies, hairpins, combs, love letters, bills - even a slab of bacon. But at Mattapan Branch the ultimate has been reached. Found between the pages of a recent novel were clippings of hair, apparently shorn from some graybeard. It was crew-some!

BOOK SELECTION COMMITTEES EXTRACURRICULA

The annual "spend-accumulated-dimes" event of the three Book Selection Committees - Adult, Young Adult and Children's - took the form, this year, of a dinner at the Lord Fox, Foxboro, Thursday evening, July 11, 1957. Due to vacations, summer courses, and other trivia, the ranks of the Young Adults Book Selection Committee were somewhat depleted. However, Mrs Gertrude Bergen, nobly represented the group. She was not able to eat as much as the other six members might have eaten, but otherwise was a very worthy representative!

Since the members of all the Committees are thrifty souls, they were pleased to note that this outing served a multiple purpose. It was the Committee's annual dinner together. It was an opportunity to express tangible best wishes to B. Gertrude Wade, formerly of Book Selection, H.R.S., and currently of Codman Square. During her seven years in Book Selection, Miss Wade worked closely with the three Book Selection Committees. As she leaves the Library to take on new duties as a member of one of the most honored, if not the oldest professions - one of the great army of shapers of souls and minds of Young America, teaching, the Committee welcomed her as guest of honor. She was presented with a handsome leather case, in which she may carry her sandwiches and other vital documents. The Committees also welcomed a former member, Mrs Mary E. West, now Supervisor of Work with Children, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois. Mr William B. Casey, B.P.L.P.S.A. President and member of the Adult Book Selection Committee was voted the National Champion of Bravery, Foolhardiness, Bravado, or Sheer Goodsportsmanship or What have you. The party was made up of eighteen ladies - and Mr. William B. Casey, who actually seemed to enjoy himself!

EDNA G. PECK

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of the articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

To the Soap Box:

We are dismayed to learn that the Anniversary Date for having passed ten exams successfully occurs on the date when the original raise was received. Since this is at least four months after the exam has been taken, there is considerable loss of money to an employee. If this is added up year after year, it will reach a goodly sum. It is suggested that the date of the anniversery be the date that the exam was successfully taken not the later date.

Frustrated

To the Editor of the Soap Box

In the most recent round of appointments, announcements of vacancies, interviews, selections and appointments were carried through with great dispatch. However, the next set of vacancies has been announced, along with a deadline for application but the wheels seem to have stopped in making selections. We sincerely hope that the administration will act as promptly as possible in making these appointments and filling all other vacancies.

Understaffed

NOISE PLEASE

"Architect Richard J. Neutra says school libraries should take down their "QUIET" signs and. . .

Provide television coverage of current events.

Install news teletypes and stock market ticker tapes.

Establish hi-fi rooms for music and poetry.

Set up outdoor reading rooms and informal lounges

Neutra made the suggestions to the University of Southern California's Library School."

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 1957

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume XII, Number 8 August 1957

Publications Committee: Charles J. Gillis, Emilia Lange, Catherine D. O'Halloran, B. Joseph O'Neil, Claire P. O'Toole, Sarah Richman, Gerald L. Ball, Chairman

Publication date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material The tenth of each month

IN MEMORIAM

Lee Max Friedman

Trustee of the
Boston Public Library

1949 - 1957

On August seventh Lee Max Friedman, Trustee of the Library, died. Mr Friedman was appointed a Trustee in 1949 for the term ending April 30, 1954 and was serving his second term at the time of his death. He served as President of the Board in 1951 and again in 1952.

Mr Friedman brought to his work at the Library long experience in legal affairs. He possessed a great interest in books and made many gifts to the Library from his own collections. His enthusiasm for books was so great that over the years he had assembled one of the notable collections of the country on the early history of the Jews in the United States and on post-biblical, Jewish history. The Library will miss his warm interest.

PERSONNEL NOTES

New Employees

Paul E. Cawein - Hyde Park (formerly of Open Shelf)
Marva Dates - History Department
Lois G. Goddard - South End (formerly at School Issue)
Joan C. MacKinnon - Mt. Bowdoin
C. Allan Viden - Periodical and Newspaper

Transferred

Marion K. Abbot - from Charlestown to Dorchester
Mrs. Rosalie R. Humphries-Mason - from Mt. Bowdoin to Adams Street
Peter Simoglou - from Memorial to Dorchester

Retired

Marion M. Burton - West Roxbury
John G. Priess - Buildings
Lisette Tanck - Dorchester

Resignations

Mrs. Marie J. Benner - Connolly - to remain at home
Mrs. Doreen Campbell - Book Stack Service - moved out of state
Mrs. Marilyn K. Currier - Cataloging and Classification, Division of R R S - to move to Pennsylvania
Charles Dowd - Open Shelf - to enter military service
Jean L. Eaton - Science and Technology - to accept a position with the Lincoln Laboratory Library, Lexington
Mrs. Mary B. Fahey - Central Charging Records - to remain at home
John F. Kearns - Book Stack Service - to accept another position
Gladys L. Murphy - Book Selection, Div. of H. R. & C. S. - to attend school in California
Mrs. Greta Sharp - Hyde Park - to live in Connecticut
Mrs. Barbara Travers - Connolly - to remain at home
Mrs. Rita T. Walsh - Egleston - to remain at home

BON VOYAGE TO EUROPE BOUND

Frances Lepie - Branch Librarian, Brighton
Ollie Partridge - Open Shelf
Marie Cashman - Open Shelf

WELCOME BACK

To James Barry, Buildings, who recently returned from visiting his native County Galway, Ireland, and other parts of the Emerald Isle. Jimmy has prepared an interesting talk about his travels and his impressions of Eire. It is hoped that our Entertainment Committee will check on it.

MEET THE NEW ARRIVALS

C. Allan Viden (pronounced to rhyme with widen), Probationary Assistant in the Professional Service in the Periodical and Newspaper Department, is married to Sue Pitney of Louisville, Kentucky, and has a nine-months-old son, Eric. The Videns make their home in Cohasset. Allan grew up in Braintree and graduated from Braintree High School in 1952. While at Braintree High School, he played varsity baseball and basketball. He is attending B.U.C.L.A., part time, majoring in English literature, and expects to receive his degree in May, 1958. He is a member of Alpha Kappa Psi. His interests include reading, gardening, boating, skating and swimming.

BIRTHS

Congratulations to Mr. and Michael C. Langone (Binding Department) on the birth of a daughter, Karen, on July 29, 1957.

NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Non-Fiction

Curley, James M.
I'd do it again
N. J., Prentice-Hall, 1957

Library Science

Brummel, Leendert
Union catalogues, their problems and organization
Paris, UNESCO, 1956

Gardner, Frank M.
The Delhi public library; an evaluation report
Paris, UNESCO, 1957

Grannis, Chandler B.
What happens in book publishing
N. Y., Columbia University Press, 1957

On behalf of the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association, the Publications Committee welcomes
SIDNEY R. RABB,
Chairman of the Board and
Treasurer of Stop & Shop, Inc.
as the newly-appointed member of the Board of Trustees
of the Boston Public Library

BRANCH NOTES

Charlestown

At their last meeting "The Friends of Charlestown Branch Library" honored Marion K. Abbot whose recent transfer to Dorchester terminated seventeen years of loyal service in the shadow of Bunker Hill. Katherine S. Rogan, Librarian Emeritus, with appropriate words of praise for Miss Abbot's contribution to the community, presented a remembrance from the "Friends", a copy of "Owen Downs on Music". During the social hour a huge, handsomely decorated cake, bearing the words "To Dear Miss Abbot" was wheeled in by Mr. Daniel M. Long, President, who led the "friends" in a spontaneous chorus of "For She's a Jolly Good Fellow." Marion responded to this tribute in a most gracious and charming manner.

More recently, the staff of the Charlestown Branch converged on the Warren Bridge Lobster House to bid their farewell to Miss Abbot. To start her evening off in the proper spirit Marion was presented with a corsage of pink roses and a spirited refreshment known as a pink lady, the second such concoction in Miss Abbot's life time. As a check, for Fall concerts of her choice, and a portable radio were presented to her, Miss Abbot's Yankee spirit came through and she admonished all for spending entirely too much money on her. The party was a very enjoyable one, but we agreed with sincerity that Miss Abbot will be sorely missed by both the staff and patrons of Charlestown Branch.

Mary K. Harris

Dorchester

Parties seem to be the order of the day at the Dorchester Branch, what with the sudden rash of resignations and retirements that has beset the branch in recent months. Beginning with Memorial Day, it seemed as though there was always a party to look back on or one to plan ahead for. On May 30, Mr. and Mrs. Conley entertained the staff, together with husbands, at a supper party at their home in Melrose, the special occasion, or occasions being the resignation of Miss Jaya Ramulu and the forthcoming leave of absence of Mrs. Barbara Simon. Miss Ramulu left the library service to go to Honolulu where she plans to be married and where she already has taken a position in the Library of Hawaii. The staff presented Jaya with a silver charm bracelet bearing tiny charms to remind her of Boston: a beanpot, a swan boat and a little replica of the Mayflower. To Barbara Simon the staff tendered a baby shower, with a variety of beautiful and useful gifts colorfully wrapped and all deposited in a sturdy clothes basket. At the same time, gifts of toilet water, with atomizers, were presented to the extra assistants who were 1957 graduates from high school: Rosemary MacDonnell, Myra Morse and Patricia Chinetti. Supper that evening consisted of lobster salad, chicken salad, strawberry shortcake and incidentals.

On July 29, a small staff luncheon was held at the branch for Mr. George DuMoulin, custodian for 32 years and now retiring. Mrs. DuMoulin was a special guest at the party, along with her husband, and the staff presented Mr. DuMoulin with a Buxton billfold containing a sum of money. Mr. DuMoulin will be greatly missed at the branch for he was always dependable, good-natured and helpful.

On July 31, Miss Lisette Tanck, Adults Librarian, retired from the library ser-

vice, and an informal ice cream and cake party was given at the Branch in her honor. Besides the staff there were a few invited guests: Miss Josephine Tanck, a sister of Miss Tanck, Miss Margaret Morgan, Miss Eleanor O'Leary, Miss Dolly DeSimone, Mr. Pat Vacca. The table in the staff room was set with a lace cloth, fragrant red roses, rose-patterned napkins, rose candles, and a cake frosted to represent a flower garden. Ice cream and punch completed the refreshments. The staff presented Miss Tanck with a leather handbag, and all wished her the best of luck and health in her new and unaccustomed, but much-deserved leisure.

Miss Bette Pinckney, having undergone an operation in early July, was unable to be present at the parties, but everyone was glad to hear she is home from the hospital and regaining her strength, and she hopes to return to work in October.

No more resignations, please, for a while!

Lisette Tanck Honored

The fact that the official temperature was 98° on Saturday, August 3, did not seem to deter one whit the enthusiams of those who gathered that beautiful summer afternoon at the home of Margaret Morgan to pay tribute to Lisette Tanck upon her retirement from the Boston Public Library.

Some thirty fellow workers gathered to honor Miss Tanck who through her loyalty, unending courtesy, and deep interest in others has endeared herself to both staff and clientele. The guests were those who have worked with her during some period of her Library career. Among them were the four branch librarians with whom she has been most closely associated - Beatrice M. Flanagan, Branch Librarian Emeritus, Margaret I. McGovern, Branch Librarian Emeritus, Margaret A. Morgan, Connolly and Elinor D. Conley, Branch Librarian, Dorchester. Miss Tanck's two sisters, Josephine and Helen Tanck were also guests of honor.

The house looked very cool and refreshing despite the temperature. The many bouquets of cut flowers, the tinkling ice in the large bowl of flavorful punch, and the tempting table ladened with artistically arranged sandwiches, relishes and home-made cookies and cakes combined to produce a mood of relaxation and good will.

Miss Morgan was assisted in serving by her mother, Mrs. Jessie Morgan, her sister, Mrs. Muriel MacDonald, her two neices, Janet and Peggy MacDonald and Edna G. Peck.

The good wishes of the group were conveyed to Miss Tanck when Miss Morgan presented to her a beautiful traveling case on behalf of those present.

As Miss Tanck leaves the Library the well wishes of her many friends go with her. Her presence will be greatly missed but her influence will have left a tangible mark on all those with whom she has been associated through the years.

Edna G. Peck

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The addition to the staff of several new full-time members makes it advisable to address a few brief remarks to them on the nature and purpose of the Professional Staff Association. Because this material is so familiar to the older staff members who already have done so much to further the aims of the Association, we beg their indulgence in this attempt to recruit new members.

The Professional Staff Association has a membership, at the present time, of some 400 members of the bibliothecal service. Annual dues are set at the nominal figure of 50 cents, the money received being used to defray operating expenses. Elections are held annually and any member is eligible to be nominated for office. Business meetings are held in January, May and November and during the course of the meeting any member may present for discussion any item he feels to be of interest to the Association as a whole.

The Association was established as a means by which united action could be taken on the problems that arise in the library service. How effective it is, or can be, depends on the membership and their willingness to express their views. Because the library has continued to grow, new problems have arisen constantly. To solve them requires the experience of the "old library hands" coupled with the enthusiasm and fresh viewpoints of new members of the staff.

The official publication of the Professional Staff Association is the Question Mark which is published monthly. It is in

the pages of the Question Mark that members have an opportunity to express freely their views on all phases of library activity. A veritable river of prose has flown from the editorial boards of the past concerning the failure of staff members to make their views known. In this connection let me just say that silence in Church is a necessary and desirable thing but silence in our public relations often leads to misunderstanding and impedes the rapid settlement of difficulties.

The organization of the Professional Staff Association is described in detail in the Constitution of the BPLPSA, copies of which are on file in each unit. It was our intention merely to present in summary form a few of the salient features of the association. It is worthy of note that like so many other similar organizations it is only as effective as its membership. It has certain basic strengths and some equally basic weaknesses that can be either utilized or corrected, as the case may be, from within. For the remarkably low price of 50 cents (payable now through your staff representative) you can unburden yourself on the Soap Box (limit 300 words) and contribute a measurable amount to the further achievement of the Professional Staff Association.

William T. Casey
President

NEW PENSION LAW

The following interesting excerpts are taken from an advance copy of Chapter 661 Acts of 1957, supplied through the courtesy of this Library's authority on Pensions and Pension law, Abraham B. Snyder, Cataloging and Classification (R and RS). Complete copies of this law are obtainable upon request from the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, State House, Boston 33.

SECTION 1. (2), (a) The normal yearly amount of the retirement allownace for any member classified in either Group A or Group B, who has paid the full amount of regular deductions on the total amount of regular compensation, including deductions specified in subdivision (3A) of section three, and in paragraph (d) of subdivision (1) of section twenty-two, shall, subject to the limitations set forth in this section, be based on the average annual rate of regular compensation not exceeding seventy-five hundred dollars received by such member during any period of five consecutive years of creditable service for which such rate of compensation was the highest, and shall be computed according to the following table based on the age of such member and his number of years and full months of creditable service at the time of his retirement.

Table showing Percentage of the Amount of Average Annual Rate of Regular Compensation to be multiplied by the Number of Years of Creditable Service.

PER CENT	AGE LAST BIRTHDAY AT DATE OF RETIREMENT	
	GROUP A.	GROUP B.
2.5	65 or over	60 or over
2.4	64	59
2.3	63	58
2.2	62	57
2.1	61	56
2.0	60	55
1.9	59	
1.8	58	
1.7	57	
1.6	56	
1.5	55	

(b) Any member whose annual rate of regular compensation has been in excess of seventy-five hundred dollars during any period or periods of his creditable service shall receive an additional yearly retirement allowance equal to two fifths of the regular deductions paid into the annuity savings fund by such member on that part of his regular compansation which has been at a rate in excess of seventy-five hundred dollars in any such period or periods.

(c) Any member of Group A or Group B, who is a veteran as defined in section one, shall receive an additional yearly retirement allowance of fifteen dollars for each year of creditable service or fraction thereof; provided, that the total amount of said additional retirement allowance shall not exceed three hundred dollars in any case.

(d) The total normal yearly amount of the retirement allowance of any member of Group A or Group B, as determined in accordance with the provisions of this section, shall not exceed four fifths of the average annual rate of his regular compensation received during any period of five consecutive years of creditable service for which such rate of compensa-

(Continued on page 6)

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of the articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

I read with alarm the statement regarding the changes in the bases of pensions. As one who is fast approaching retirement and who has consulted the officials about my retirement money, the change from the two to the five year period of salary for the pension rate seems short sighted. Since the average person's salary goes up to meet the increasing costs of living, the later years have a higher average than the previous ones. Unless one is absent without pay, this would seem to be a loss to the retiree and a gain for the City and State.

Marion C. Kingman

(Continued from page 5)

tion was the highest.

. . . . . .

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect as of May thirty-first in the current year; but anything in sections one to three, inclusive, of this act to the contrary notwithstanding, the retirement allowance of any person who on May thirty-first in the current year was a member in service of a retirement system subject to sections one to twenty-eight, inclusive, of chapter thirty-two of the General Laws, shall in no event be less than the retirement allowance provided by the provisions of law in effect immediately prior to the effective date of this act; nor shall the benefit of any beneficiary of such person be less than the benefit so provided.

Approved, August 13, 1957.

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 1957

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume XII, Number 9 September, 1957

Publications Committee: Charles J. Gillis, Emelia Lange, Isabel M. Martino, Catherine D. O'Halloran, B. Joseph O'Neil, Claire P. O'Toole, Sarah Richman, Gerald L. Ball, Chairman

Publication date:
The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material
The tenth of each month

EDITORIAL NOTES

We sincerely welcome Mr. Sidney Rabb on his appointment to the Board of Trustees of the Boston Public Library, and extend to him our warm wishes for a most pleasant and satisfying experience in his new position.

On this occasion we may well pause and reflect on the value of the services of your unpaid Board of Trustees. Consider how much a commercial enterprise would be willing to pay men of their calibre to serve on its Board of Directors! Yet money could not buy the service to the Library. Few would suggest that the Board of Trustees is a political springboard. It is only because these men are keenly aware of the importance of the Library as a force in the community's cultural, spiritual, and economic welfare that they have been willing to accept appointment to the Board of Trustees.

And yet we would be less than honest if we did not admit that there have been criticisms of the Board of Trustees on the grounds that the Board is "part-time" and/or "unpaid". We believe that the intimations suggested by these objections are baseless and short-sighted. That these important men are willing to serve without remuneration makes their endeavor no less valuable, but is, and has been, an assurance that only men with a high sense of altruism would be attracted to the Board of Trustees. The Trustees, no more than the members of the Board of Directors of a large corporation, need be in a continuous session to deal effectively with the problems which are in their province. Men accustomed to directing the affairs of a large corporation can appraise a situation and make a balanced judgement in short order once the facts of the situation are presented to them.

And in this latter regard we may be remiss. How effectively, how promptly have we presented pertinent problems of the Staff to the Board of Trustees? On a matter as important as adequate salary and wage schedules could we have presented the facts more completely to the Board of Trustees than we have done?

Since the rise in the cost of living after our last salary and wage revision in April 1953, what has been done? Although a basic salary increase of at least ten per cent was requested by a vote of the business meeting in 1956, although the Executive Boards and Personnel Committees devoted much time and effort to the problems, although several meetings were held with the Director, the representatives had only one short meeting with the Board of Trustees some eighteen months after the membership had indicated the need for salary revision. The Director, as executive officer of the Trustees, has indeed given much time and study to the problem and to our presentations, and has endeavored to transmit our proposals to the Board of Trustees. Yet can such representation be

most effective when, at times, the convictions of the Staff as expressed at the meetings of the Staff Association, are not shared by the Director? Is this, indeed, fair to the Director? To expect him to foster proposals with which he does not entirely agree might certainly be considered an imposition.

Now we are receiving much less than is necessary to meet the rise in the cost of living. On the other hand we see fellow city employees receiving increases amounting to four times those granted to the Library employees, and also, others receiving "adjustments" which effectuate increases in remuneration (regardless of the terminology). We cannot but wonder if there is not a better way of gaining our objective.

Five years ago the Staff Association voted to request representation of the Association at meetings of the Board of Trustees, at which policies concerning the bibliothecal staff in general were on the agenda. At that time, through the correspondence with other Staff Associations, we learned that participation of the staff in Trustees' meetings, in varying degrees, was the practice in a great many libraries.

Many believe that a more direct representation to the Board of Trustees would, in the long run, redound to the advantage of all concerned. We earnestly solicit expressions of opinion in letters to the Editorial Board, to the Soap Box, or to the Executive Board.

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

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PERSONNEL NOTES

New Employees

Victoria Bradford, Roslindale
Edith P. Gordon, Jamaica Plain
Evelyn G. Isaacs, Bookmobiles
Mary L. Shea, Charlestown
Ann S. Taber, Roslindale

Transferred

Jane M. Barry, from Mattapan to Connolly
Anna M. Brackett, from Roslindale to East Boston
Mrs. Margaret T. Butler, from Periodical & Newspaper Room to Audio- Visual
Mary O'G Cahill, from Book Purchasing to Cataloging and Classification, Division of Reference and Research Services
Julia A. Lenzi, from East Boston to Roslindale
Roslyn F. Mateles, from Connolly to Charlestown
Mary R. Roberts, from Central Charging Records to Office of Home Reading and Community Services
Irene J. Wadsworth, from Book Selection Department, Home Reading Service to Charlestown
John C. Walton, from Office of Records, Files, Statistics to Book Purchasing

Retired

Mrs. Grace M. Caution, Accounting, after 31 years of service
Eamon E. McDonough, General Reference, after 20 years of service. Mr. McDonough will be the School Librarian of the East Hampton Union District, East Hampton, New York.

Married

Margaret T. Brassil, Memorial to Paul Cameron on August 3, 1957
Joanne M. Coughlin, Book Preparation, to Richard Steele on September 2, 1957
Mary O'Malley, Central Charging Records, to Patrick Manion on August 31, 1957

Resigned

Elsie K. Brainard, Uphams Corner, to accept a position as teacher-librarian in California
Margaret A. Hewey, Roslindale, to accept a position in the Boston Baptist Bethel Children's Mission in the North End
Robert W. Holmes, Music, to continue graduate work in music
Jeannette L. Lipinski, Central Charging Records
Jeanne M. Logue, Book Stack Service, to attend nursing school

Annie L. McLeod, Charlestown, to attend Simmons College
Madeline V. McMannus, Bookmobiles, to be married
Charles R. Meehan, Teachers, to teach at State Teacher's College at Lowell
Faith R. Minton, East Boston, to move away from Boston
Marie Ann Orth, Personnel, to accept a position with Firestone Tire and Rubber Co.
Frank G. Saunders, General Reference
Mary J. Scholfield, Jamaica Plain
Barbara A. Tuthill, City Point, to accept a position as Elementary School Librarian in Brookline
B. Gertrude Wade, Codman Square, to teach at Westwood High School

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

After the summer vacation the Executive Board resumed activity with a meeting on Tuesday, September 10. The principle item of business was a discussion of the seminar on the future of the Boston Public Library, which had been voted by the membership at the November, 1955 Business Meeting. In January, 1957, it was voted to postpone it until more time could be devoted to its organization. It still remains as an item of unfinished business for the Association to concentrate on.

It was the original intention that the seminar would bring together a group of people not directly concerned with the Library who would discuss the place of the Library in the Boston of tomorrow. In view of the events that have transpired ever since the original motion was voted upon, it would seem that such a seminar could prove to be both interesting and informative.

In order that we may make this as successful and fruitful as possible it is necessary to have the help and cooperation of the members of the Association. Any comments or suggestions as to how the seminar can be most effectively utilized will be most welcome.

William T. Casey
President

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AD MULTOS ANNOS

On August 24, Miss Mildred C. O'Connor, Chief of General Reference, was a very gracious hostess to the staff of her department at dinner in the Toll House, Whitman. Special guests of the evening were Mr. and Mrs. Eamon McDonough. The occassion was Eamon's resignation from the Library to accept a position as high school librarian in East Hampton, Long Island, New York.

The General Reference Dept. will certainly miss Eamon's congenial personality. We have always been respectfully amazed at his facility in the field of poets and poetry. With difficult inquiries on poems received at General Reference, Eamon often took over where Granger's Index stopped. His knowledge of government and current affairs, based on genuine interest in those fields, helped others on the staff to provide replies to inquiries on elections, office, etc. which were not always given in the reference books. Possessing many other talents, Eamon, above all has been a friendly and sympathetic person.

It was a pleasure to have Eamon's wife Phoebe with us at the dinner. A former member of the General Reference Dept., Phoebe now has the enviable position of mother to three attractive children.

The General Reference staff, in the week following Miss O'Connor's dinner party, added their best wishes to those of other staff members in wishing much success and happiness to Eamon and his family. At that time a large group had assembled in Mr. Hensley's office to present a check of substantial proportion to Eamon, a testimony of BBL'ers to East Hampton's newest librarian.

Paul V. Moynihan

****

BIRTHS

A little girl, Jane Elizabeth, was born at Hempstead, New York on Aug. 20, to Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Cabot Howard. Mrs. Howard was Elizabeth Fitzgerald of Catalogue and Classification, and children's librarian at Jeffries Point and South End.

Dr. and Mrs. Donald Gillis are the proud parents of a third son, Brian, born Tuesday, Aug. 27, 1957. Their other children are Donald, 6; Judith, 4; and Stephen, 1 1/2. Mrs. Gillis, better known as Pat Morley, formerly worked in the Division of Home Reading.

Word has been received of the birth of a son, Stephen Llewellyn, to Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Smith of Cranston, R.I., on Aug. 27, 1957. Mrs. Smith was the former Ann Hamer of the staff at Dorchester. She also worked for a short time at Neponset.

****

During the summer months a model of a fifteenth century Spanish galleon has been a center of attraction for many visitors to the Children's section of Open Shelf. The finely carved model, a gift of Esther Lissner of the Library s staff, will be exhibited in many of the branches throughout the fall and winter months.

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The Lord may have His purpose
In all that meets the eye,
The tumult here below
And grandeurs in the sky.

I contemplate the grandeurs
In wonder and in awe;
The tumults, fierce and puzzling,
Seem God's Achilles' flaw.

The myriad creations
Attest the cosmic mind;
And nothing mars the landscape
Save only humankind.

The galaxies and planets,
I take them in my stride;
I knew He had it in Him,
And wonders vast beside.

I shudder at conclusion,
As human deeds I scan;
Perverse was He that Friday,
To go and make that man.

Harry Andrews

****

RETIREMENT

MRS. GRACE M. CAUTION

On August 31, 1957, Mrs. Grace M. Caution retired from the Library. In her thirty one and a half years of servicein Accounting, she was ever gracious, dependable, and willing to do more than her share of work.

In the days of the paymasters, many a compliment was given her by them for the legibility of her penmanship. Her figures could be easily read upside down. In those days the employees signed on the payroll for their pay; so, for them the payroll had to be right side up.

Mrs. Caution's many friends wish her healthy and happy years of retirement.

*

Acceding to her wishes that no "fuss" be made upon her retirement from the Library, Friday, the thirtieth of August was marked only by her friends dropping in to Accounting to extend their good wishes to Grace M. Caution as she spent her last day of work at her desk and made out her last payroll for the BPL.

However, Mrs. Caution did accept an invitation from Helen Schubarth, her "boss," to have lunch with her and other members of Accounting at the home of Katherine Schubarth in Duxbury, on Saturday, September seventh. Much to the surprise of Mrs. Caution, she was greeted there by some thirty BPL'ers--including husbands and wives--who had come to honor her.

At an informal reception indoors, Mrs. Caution was presenred with a pop-up toaster (the only item for which she had ever expressed a desire) from the staff of Accounting; brass and enamel bowls from those at the party; money from her many library friends whose names were listed on the long white ribbon folded into the card; a picture of her at her desk on August thirtieth, surrounded by the staff of Accounting and Business Office; and the traditional leather-bound book containing messages from her colleagues.

Following this, a delicious buffet luncheon was served in the spacious back yard. There in a friendly, relaxing atmosphere, her friends reminisced with her and reiterated the

good wishes which they had expressed earlier. The whole affair was recorded in colored pictures by Barbara Bloom's husband.

Long life and happiness to Mrs. Caution; we shall miss her!

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BRANCH NOTES

West End - The occassions for festivities became so numerous at West End this summer that we decided to incorporate them into one big dinner party. Miss Fanny Goldstein, our Branch Librarian, acted as hostess, and with her complete staff, both full and part-time in tow, sailed in Patten's on Tuesday evening, August 6th. The party was given in honor of Joan Chadbourne, subprofessional assistant, who left the service to return to school and announced her engage ent at the same time!, Joyce P. Ellis, children's librarian who was transferred to Connolly, and Mary-Ann Nappi and Timothea Allen, part-time assistants who will start college this Fall. The dinner was excellent, the company was congenial and the occassion a truly memorable one.

*

We are not ones to boast, but there are times which warrant doing so. The following is one example: A gentleman from the Library of Congress came to West End in search of a bound Judaica periodical. A check with the L. C. Union Catalog showed that the West End Branch is the only library in the U.S. which owns this particular item. This is just one instance of the foresight and selectivity of Miss Goldstein in amassing the Judaica collection.

*

Our "Wide Wide World" summer reading club turned its talents toward theatricals to produce, to say the least, an unusual version of Peter Pan. Both staff and club members worked diligently on the play, and the final production had nothing on the Mary Martin version.

*

Diane Farrell, our children's worker enjoyed her story-telling experiences this summer at the Camp Fire Girls' Day Camp on the Esplanade, and at Pleasure Island in South Boston.

*

Fanny Goldstein has been selected as a director of Freedon, Inc. She is co-chairman with Alexander Brin of Constitution Day exercises in the Hall of Flags at the State House on Sept. 17. On this occassion several scores of immigrants and children of immigrants will receive citations of good citizenship from Governor Foster Furcolo.

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C.C. & M. S. DINDLES WITH SOY SAUCE

The summer social season of the BPL* CC&S came to a brilliant, almost blinding, end on Aug. 25 at the China Star in merry Merrymount. Rumor had it that the soiree's raison d'etre (French-Promotional Step 2) was to express our gratitude to Eamon McDonough for his retirement from the Library service; an event that set the BPL back a good fifty seconds; and while was a contributing factor, the real reason was the excellent Chinese food at low cost.

Loud but thoroughly undanceable music w was rendered by Frankie Myers' rhythm band with Frankie's drums - not Frankie - as the main attraction. Dan Koury, Louis Ugalde and Martin Waters claimed that they played lovely background music for the drums. If they did it must have been for Sitting Bull's war drums.. Nevertheless, it is believed that the alleged music lowered property values in that part of Quincy by approximately twenty percent.

Over fifty people attended, including m many former members of the BPL staff. Although obviously all shook up by this demonstration of affectionate loathing by his former fellows, Eamon was able to stammer a few thousand words of reciprocal warmth expressing his deep appreciation for his new job and salary. This really was a surprise party - Eamon was surprised when he did not receive a gift; that came a few days later. After a few hours, Eamon had consumed enough courage to entertain the assembly with his new classic and completely despised rendition of "Anne Bolyn". That broke up the party.

The pitifully remaining members of the once proud CC&MS fervently hope that there will be no more deserters from their ranks. Frankly, we are getting just a little tired of Chinese food.

MARGARET MUNSTERBURG

Miss Margaret Munsterberg, for thirty-two years a member of the Rare Book Dept. of the Library, died in her sleep early Thursday morning, September twelfth.

She was born in Freinburg-Baden, Germany, the daughter of Selma Oppler and Hugo Munsterberg. Her father was well-known to an earlier college generation as Professor of Psychology at Harvard College.

Miss Munsterberg graduated from Radcliffe College in 1909 and received her master's degree in literature the following year. In 1910-1911 she studied at the University of Berlin. She was the author of two novels, "Anna Borden's Career", and the "Baron's Book of England." She also wrote "Documents of a New England Town", a study of the town of Reading, two books of poems and "A Harvest of German Verse", as well as a biography of her father, and contributed many articles and poems to periodical literature. As editorial assistant in the Rare Book Dept., she wrote many scholarly articles first for "More Books" and later for the Quarterly. She planned to retire on November first of this year and devote her leisure to writing another novel based of the Library's collection of correspondence of Maria Chapman and the Weston sisters.

Funeral services for Miss Munsterberg were held in the Lesley Linsley Memorial Chapel of Emanuel Church. In this beautiful chapel, decorated with the flowers which expressed the affection in which she was held, a large number of her colleagues and friends said their good-byes to a fine and understanding personality.

GEORGE H. EARLY

George H. Early, 74, a printer on the Library staff for 39 years before retiring in 1952, died on Sept. 8th after a short illness. A Requiem High Mass was sung at 10 o'clock on Sept. 11th in the Holy Name Church, West Roxbury, and interment was in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

Mr. Early leaves a wife, Lillian and two sons, William J. and George E. Early, both former members of the Library staff.

WELCOME ABOARD

Because of the Absence of Mrs. O'Toole and Mrs. O'Halloran who are on maternity leave, there was a lack of Sub-professional representation on the Publications Committee. This committee, it is felt, should represent all groups in the Association. Therefore, we are very happy to welcome two new members, Isabel M. Martino, HospitalLibrary Service, and Mary R. Roberts, Office of Home Reading and Community Services, Their appointment will give the Sub-professional Service fine representation.

***

JUNIOR EDITOR

Our fellow member of the Publications Committee ,Mrs. Claire O'Toole, became the proud parent of a seven pound thirteen ounce daughter on Aug. 29, 1957. She is to be named after her mother. We hope that Mrs. O'Toole and her new arrival will attend the January meeting of the Publications Committee. Best wishes to both.

***

Fred Danker, son of Joseph Danker, Buildings Superintendent, is now at Fort Sill where he is attending advanced artillery school. He would like to hear from his library friends. His address is:

Lt. Frederick Danker 04064916
OBC24 Box 1130
1st Officer Student's Battery
4th Army
Fort Sill, Oklahoma

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To the Editor of the Soap Box:

The Report of the Examining Committee, 1956-1957, makes interesting reading for the non-librarian, but is of particular significance to the Bibliothecal staff. Now that we have had time to digest this report it is time for comments pro and con. When compared with the facts it caused many cases of acute indigestion , if not chronic gastritis.

For example, take the report of the Subcommittee of Personnel. The Summary (b) states, "The relation between the Director and the Library Personnel seems to indicate the need...of an officer, deputy to the Director, who can aid in affecting better staff relations." This would seem to be a very acid solution and would cause inestimable harm. To interpose another deputy between the Director and the staff certainly is not the way to better relations. The problemhas psychological and pathological implications, but no middle man, regardless of how angelic, can possibly better staff relations and staff morale.

The answer to the above may be found, at least partially, in (d) of the Summary of the report of the Subcommittee on Personnel, "... we note with regret the existence of elements of dissidence within the top echelons of administration." If the Director cannot work with men of good will, how can he possibly expect a middle man to hurdle the obstacles that are inherent in the nature of the problem? Please, no more deputies to the Director, no more middle-men!

THE CONS

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

The genius that devised the procedure for obtaining the estimates for the 1958 Equipment and Repair Budget from department heads and branch librarians should not go unrecognized. Anytime that one can save an hour or so of a typist's time at the expense of several hours each of the time of forty-odd department heads and branch librarians, he should by all means do so. Especially when the end product is bound to be non-uniform and more difficult to work with.

Has the genius considered the possibility of using the 1957 and 1958 forms as a basis for the 1959 estimates. That might be even more complicated and confusing!

Genius has been defined as the "infinite capacity for taking pains" not making pains!

Punchy

Dear Editor:

More and more I have heard members of the staff criticizing the Professional Staff Association and prophesying its early demise.

Its lack of effectiveness is the usual complaint. Its most ardent supporters would agree that it could be more effective. And it can be just as effective as its members will it to be. But it cannot be done by wishing. The membership must assert itself, state its goals and then work for them.

Another complaint: its always the same old faces, the same old names on committees, serving as officers, etc. Actually new blood is represented with each succeeding year, but many familiar names and faces are repeaters year after year because certain individuals have shown themselves willing to work and cooperate for the common good. But if changes are wanted, do your complaining, make your proposals at business meetings, make nominations from the floor, work to elect the nominees of your choice, accept membership and chairmanship on committees. If you let George do it, it may not be done to your liking. Griping in the coffee shop, in the lunch rooms, and in the smoking rooms may let off steam, but hardly accomplishes anything concrete.

And those who predict that the Association must die, do they believe that instead of the P.S.A., there will be no organization. Let them be not so foolhardy. The vacuum would soon be filled by some other organization. And it is quite possible that the next organization would not be as professional as the P.S.A. How would they welcome an organization such as the Boston Teachers Alliance, the Elementary Teachers Club, the Boston Teachers Club, the Junior High School Club, the Boston Teachers Club, the Elementary Principals, the High School Women's Association or the High School Teachers of Boston?

These organizations campaign to elect school committeemen who would do their will and seek to defeat those who do not. They ring door bells, they seek endorsement of Home and School leaders and obtain publicity in the newspapers, on the radio and TV.

Maybe our P.S.A. isn't as effective as it might be, but do we want it this effective? I hardly think so.

Poor but professional

To the Editor:

The day off in compensation for the July 5th skeleton force is much appreciated, especially in open departments where the staff usually loses out in skeleton force grants. Would it not have been a better grant, however, had all those who were eligible for the compensatory day, been required to use it before Oct.1? As it is, those on vacation at the time, who are not carrying six vacation days over after Oct. 1, will in effect be able to use their compensatory day next winter or spring, since they were charged one less vacation day that week. Perhaps some who worked July 5 look wistfully at that privilege.

One who does

Dear Soap Box:

When will the Library adopt a uniform closing time? Although the Library announces its closing time as 10 p.m. from October through May, most of the Library closes at 9 p.m. Open Shelf, Audio Visual, the Registration section of Central Charging Records, Teachers' Room, History Reference, the book stacks of Book Stack Service, Fine Arts, Science and Technology, Music, Rare Book, all close at 9 p.m.

Wouldn't it make more sense to have all public departments close at the same time? It would be much less confusing to the patrons of the Library. It would obviate the necessity of explaining to and placating irate persons who take at face value the published closing time of the Library and are unable to obtain service from departments which close one hour before the building closes.

Several years ago we heard that the administration was making a survey of the practices of other large libraries in the matter of closing times. If true, it would be interesting to know what the results of the survey were and what recommendations, if any, were made as a result of the survey. How does one find out?

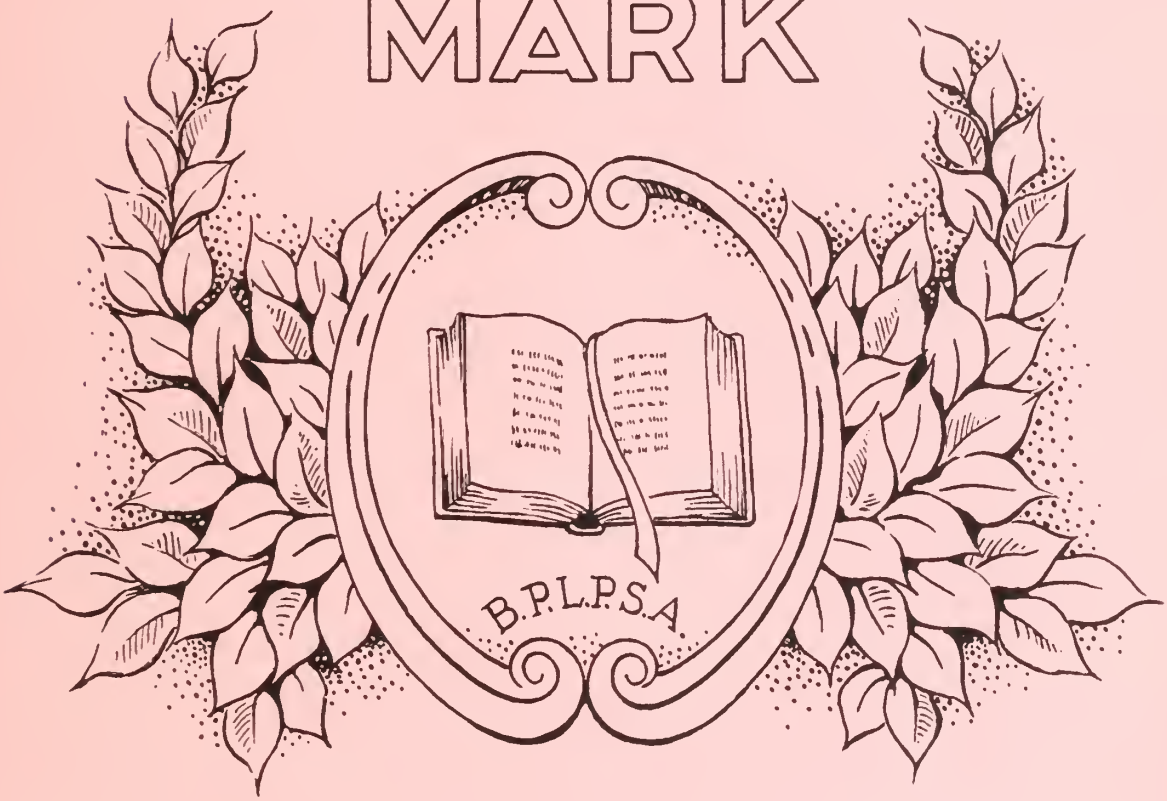
Wondering

Editor's note:

It has come to our attention that the rather involved budget report form was not sent to the branches. So the branch librarians could not have done the extra work that irked Punchy.

*

THE Question MARK



THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 1957

THE QUESTION MARK

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EDITORIAL NOTES

The new salary schedules which have been approved by the Board of Trustees and the proposed classification plans for the Professional, Pre-Professional and Non-Professional Services are of the utmost concern to every member of our Association. Probably there will be very few among us who will object to the new salary schedules which would permit us to catch up to and stay abreast of the still rising cost of living. To insist on cost of living increases, as such, might be self-defeating, because any cost of living compensation which could be justified for the professional and sub-professional staff, could, by the same token, be justified for most of the rest of the employees of the city. And any appropriation which might meet the cost of living increases for all of the employees of the city would be of such magnitude that, in view of the city's financial situation, the Mayor and City Council could hardly approve it. However, there could be little objection to a gradual program to accomplish the task of bringing the salary scales for the bibliothecal staff in the Boston Public Library to a level near the average found in most other libraries comparable to our institution. Among eighteen comparable libraries the Boston Public Library has the unenviable position of ranking seventeenth or eighteenth salarywise in most categories of bibliothecal employees. We sincerely hope that this program is not so gradual that we remain in the same relatively low-ranking position. For we must remember that the salary schedules in other libraries will not remain static, and unless we can compete in salaries with these other libraries, we can expect to see properly qualified personnel bypassing the Boston Public Library and leaving it for greener pastures.

If we insist on salary standards comparable to those in other institutions we should recognize that it is not unreasonable to establish personnel standards similar to these same institutions. A distinction should be made between the new salary schedules which have already been approved as desirable goals, and the new classification plans which are being proposed. Since these are yet only proposed, and we have been invited to offer criticism with the objective of attaining more desirable personnel classifications, we cannot emphasize too much the importance of bringing to light any and all objections which members of the bibliothecal staff might have to the proposals. Study and discuss the plans, express your objections and your approvals by whatever means you feel will be most effective. Write or talk to the members of the Executive Board and Personnel Committee, write to the Soap Box anonymously or otherwise, communicate with administration.

Hand in hand with establishment of higher standards for personnel, we believe that those already in the service, should be protected so that they do not lose anything to which they are rightfully entitled. And there is ample precedent for this principle both within and outside the Library. But we should not rely on the automatic protection of our interests. Many a valuable interest has been lost through default.----Study the plans well and sound off!

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

The Presidents Notes for this month were in effect, written in the Soap Box for September. In a letter signed "Poor but professional" the writer expressed certain views that I believe are particuliarly pertinent at this time. The Staff Association, through its elected representatives, is now being called upon to express its views upon the new re-classification scheme soon to be put into effect. On Monday, October 7 there was a joint meeting of the Executive Board and the Personnel Committee with the Director for the purpose of examining the new plan. Subsequent meetings are scheduled for the future and in order to best serve the Association it is imperative that the officers are informed as to the wishes of the membership.

In order to insure the best possible communication between the Executive Board and the members of the professional staff three things can be done by each individual:

1) Make sure that your dues are paid for the current year.
2) Attend the meetings, participate in the discussions and express your wishes.
3) Make your views known either through the Soap Box or by communication with the Executive Board.

With regard to the complaint mentioned by P.B.P. about the same old faces, I Personally subscribe to the "turn the rascals out" theory but accoding to advance reports from the nominating committee it hasn't been easy to dragoon candidates into accepting nominations for office. Let us hope that by November we will have a new slate of standard bearers.

William T. Casey
President

PERSONNEL NOTES

New Employees

Albert J. Brogna - Central Charging Records (formerly a member of this dept.)
Elizabeth A. Drane - General Reference
Edmund E. Geary - Business Office
Harold A. Hammond - Cataloging and Classification, HRS
Mary E. Heller - Codman Square
Joel A. Holmberg - Bookmobiles
Margaret M. Kelleher - Central Charging Records
Arvid W. Lextrom - Audio-Visual (formerly part-time)
Dolores T. McLean - Bookmobiles
Mrs. Jane E. Porter - Book Stack Service
Judith Prindle - West End
Mrs. Anita M. Ross - Bookmobiles
Martha C. Sproul - East Boston
Sheila M. St. Arnauld - Parker Hill
Betty A. Wilburn - South End

Transferred

Francis R. Currie - from Memorial Branch Library to OS Dept.
Marie S. Devlin - from Central Book Stock Branch Issue Section to Cataloging and Classification HRS
Dorothy Flood - from Adams St. Branch Library to West Roxbury Branch Library
Lois G. Goddard -from South End Branch Library to City Point Branch Library
Jeanne M. Hayes - from Book Purchasing Dept. to Book Selection Dept., Division of Home Reading and Community Services
Mrs. Marcella McConville - from Cataloging and Classification Dept. To Kirstein Business Branch
M. Jane Manthorne - from OS Dept. to New South Boston Book Project
Mary E. Obear - from Bookmobiles to Book Selection Dept., Division of Home Reading and Community Services
Mrs. Felicia L. Peltier - from Audio-Visual Dept. to OS Dept.
William C. Slemmer - from OS Dept. to Memorial .

Resigned

Gerard T. Donovan - Fine Arts Dept., to attend Suffolk Univ.
Mrs. Rosemarie H. LaCedra - Cataloging and Classification Dept., Division of Reference and Research Services, to accept a position nearer home.
Mary L. Malany - Rare Book Dept., to remain at home.

Married

Mary O'Malley - Central Charging Records to Patrick J. Mannion, August 31, 1957.

Retired

Marion C. Kingman - South End, after 35 years of service.

Calendar of Events

The New England Library Association will hold its meeting at the New Ocean House Oct. 16 to 20, 1957.

Catholic Library Assoc.

Fall meeting Oct 26, 1957 (2:30) Salve Regina College Library, Newport, Rhode Island.

BPLPSA Seminar on the "Role" of the BPL in Boston Future will be held in Lecture Hall under the direction of Ronnie Yotts. More information will be found else where in this issue.

Alumni Notes - White Elephants

The October issue of the DCPL News (a publication of the Public Library of the District of Columbia Staff Association) carries an item about Francis X. Doherty (former staff member and brother of Mrs. Mary D. Farrell our gracious new Chief of Cataloging and Classification (Ref.). It seems that Frank is now selling White Elephants in an attempt to raise funds for the 1959 ALA Convention which will be held in Washington. The goal is $1000 with over $600 already raised in previous sales. Knowing Frank, we are sure that the drive will go over the top.

NORTH END BRANCH

On September 27, at a surprise coffee hour, Miss Jennie Femino was bid a fond adieu upon her transfer from North End to Jamaica Plain Branch. The staff presented her with a mother-of-pearl and rhinestone-studded purse set and all the good wishes of her North End friends.

ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Linda M. Pagliuca, North End Branch, to Mr. Carl G. Tramontozzi of Brighton.

Linda plans to be married in St. Leonard Church in the North End. The wedding reception will be held in the Grand ballroom of the Sherry Biltmore Hotel. Following this they will fly to Italy for a six week honeymoon, which includes a visit to his Holiness Pope Pius XII.

Welcome Home

The Publications Committee welcomes home our Keeper of Rare Books who has been in Europe for the past fourteen weeks visiting book dealers and purchasing books for the Rare Book Dept.

He has secured some highly desireable items at very favorable prices.

When Dr. Haraszti returned from his last visit he gave a most interesting account of his travels. It is hoped that another such talk will be given this time.

CATHOLIC LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

The Fall meeting of the New England Unit of the C.L.A. will be held on October 26, 1957, at 2:30 p. m. in Salve Regina College Library, Ochre Point Ave. and Webster street, Newport, Rhode Island. Martha Engler (CP) will introduce the Elementary Section's Advisory Charter; Sister Mary Josephina, S.S.J., Boston College Graduate School of Education will speak on "Library Service to the Gifted Pupil," and George E. Ryan, Literary Editor of the Pilot will discuss "Trends in the Theater". A chartered bus will leave Copley Square at 9:30 a.m. ($2.50 per person). Those wishing reservations, please call the Transportation Director, Harry Fletcher, Line 291, as soon as possible. If luncheon at the Viking Hotel is also desired, the cost is an additional $2.50, tax and tip included.

WEDDING BELLS

Angela Sacco, Allston Branch, became the bride of Michael Siraco of East Boston on Saturday, October 12, 1957 at a Nuptial Mass at St. Lazarus' Church in Orient Heights. The bride wore a formal bouffant gown of white peau de soie detailed with side panels of pearl-trimmed Chantilly lace, ending in a short train. She carrsied a lace-covered bridal missal adorned with satin streamers and rosebuds.

Maid of honor was the groom's sister, Gloria Siraco, attired in a ballerina gown of red and white lace trimmed with velvet and a matching be-ribboned head-

band. Three bridesmaids and a junior bridemaid wore similar costumes. All the attendants carried sprays of white pom poms and tea roses.

Anthony Sacco, brother of the bride, a former part-time worker at the East Boston Branch Library, served as the best man. Three ushers and a junior usher completed the wedding party.

Following the wedding ceremony, a dinner reception was held at the Cliff House in Winthrop. Many library friends of the bride were in attendance from the Allston, North End and Roslindale Branch Libraries. It was so nice to see two former B.P.L. staff members who were also in attendance at the wedding, Mrs. Marion Dubrowski, formerly Marion Siraco of Charlestown, sister of the groom and Mrs. Janet Quint formerly young adults worker at Allston.

The bride was radiant, the groom was joyful, the wedding party was strikingly attractive, the day was sunny and all had a wonderful time!

Linda M. Pagliuca

WEDDING BELLS

Wedding bells are ringing again! This time for Madeline McManus, Bookmobile, and Paul McGourty who were married Labor Day. On August 14, 1957 Miss McManus was tended a farewell party at the Town House. She was presented with a beautiful money bouquet. Spirited by Mrs. Mary Burns' ingenious ideas and many weeks of close interrogation, each member of the staff gave her a useful kitchen utensil. We know Madeline will certainly be able to use everything as she is setting up housekeeping at the living quarters of Dartmouth College where Mr. McGourty is going to Business School.

We will all miss Madeline as she has been with the Bookmobile six years. All our good wishes for years of happiness go with her.

On the same evening we also said goodbye to Joan O'Keefe, an extra assistant, who left for San Diego to teach school. Joan was presented with a lovely Italian leather handbag, We are all certain she will make an excellent teacher and wish her the best of luck.

Ann M. Flaherty
Bookmobile

A TRIPLE CELEBRATION

On Thursday, August 29, a triple celebration took place at Eddie's Steak House. Three of the young matrons from the Library, becomingly dressed in the latest model maternity ensembles to each of which had been pinned a Hawaiian plumiera, were guests of honor prior to starting their leaves of absence--. Peggy Morrison, Information, and Kay O'Halloran, BKS (HRS) and Barbara Bloom Acct. office.

Each guest was presented with a box handsomely wrapped--one in blue, one in pink, and one in white. These contained gifts for the mothers-to-be-dainty nighties, one in blue, one in pink, and one in white. On the top of each package were three cleverly knitted bells--one in blue, one in pink, and one in white. In the envelope accompanying each gift were crisp bills with which to purchase something for the expected heir. To Mrs. Rosemarie Mulcahy, Business, goes the credit for the choice of wrappings and gifts, and making the bells--which, by the way, tinkled musically as all bells should.

Faithful to the staff as always, Jack McLellan was on hand to take pictures of the group.

Former members of the staff who attended were Mrs. Josephine Murphy and Marie Mechini, Records, Files, Statistics, Marie Orth, Personnel, and Gladys Murphy Book Selection (HR and CS); and making his last appearance as a BPLer at a Library function, Eamon McDonough, General Reference.

Sarah M. Usher

NEW ARRIVALS

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Conlon have announced the birth of Lawrence Michael, on August 10. Mrs. Conlon is the formerly Mildred Francis, of Branch Issue and the Business Office.

ANOTHER NEW ARRIVAL

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Simon of Roslindale announce the birth of a son, Paul Alfred Simon, Jr., on Sept. 14, 1957. Mrs. Simon (Barbara) is a member of the staff at Dorchester Branch.

SOAP BOX

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of the articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only these contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

The provisional edition of The Professional Library Service pamphlet distributed to members of the staff, would seem to indicate that at last we are going to have a professional staff in fact as well as in name. It would seem that an attempt has been made to justify as many of the iniquities of the past as possible. Thus, many of those advanced to the upper echelon without the benefit of an academic education are now designated as Non-Professional. However, whatever the nomenclature, is there another large municipal library in the country that can boast of the non-collegiate background of so many of its chief officers?

If one were to make a list of those who have been advanced to positions of Dept. Head and up, since February 1, 1932, those without college degrees would form a considerable portion of the appointments. How low have we fallen?

We might say, let's bury the past and hope for better things to come. If the entrance requirements to the professional staff in the future are to include both a bachelor's degree from an accredited college, and a fifth year at an accredited Library School, then by all means let's go right down the line, or rather, right up the line.

However, the real professionals cannot take much more window dressing. In one breath we read of these fine arrangements to make us a truly professional staff, and in the next breath, bingo, we get another appointment to a titular position that ignores formal collegiate training. This is no reflection upon the individual as a person, but upon the incredible inconsistencies of the administration. Was the date of January 1, 1958, taken advisedly? Beware of further deviations!

The Collegians

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

Q. When is the library the busiest?

A. Consistently the busiest four hours of each week occur on Sunday afternoon October through May.

Q. How does the library get its staff to work during those premium hours?

A. Although the library theoretically pays time and a half, most departments have difficulty securing enough willing staff members to provide service on Sunday.

Q. Why is there such reluctance on the part of employees to working on Sundays?

A. On this day of rest many firms have to pay double time to get employees to work on Sunday. The library's Sunday remuneration policy is most unrealistic. Extra-service employees paid by the hour receive only straight time - no premium for Sunday work. Many professional assistants because of the arbitrary limit set by the city receive a premium of only a few cents an hour..There are actually some who receive on Sunday less than their regular hourly rate. Department chiefs who work on Sunday receive no payment. Instead they are granted straight time off during the week. Not only do they get no premium, they are penalized - they work premium hours but are granted non-premium hours off, and are yet expected to fulfill their regular duties in less than a full week. Strangely enough the sub-professionals fare better than most others. They receive time and a half in money since in most cases this overtime rate falls within the arbitrary limit set by the city.

If the public show that they want service on Sunday and the City wants to give it to them why make the employees suffer?

If an employee must work on Sunday, why not treat him fairly?

Q. How can this be done?
A. 1. Treat everyone the same. Whatever the rate for overtime, time and a half or double time, let it apply to all.

2. Remove the arbitrary limit set by the city. This limit may have been reasonable at one time, but now inflation has made it unfair.

3. If employees desire it, allow them the option of time off during the week at the overtime rate instead of money payment.

4. Give the extra-service employees some premium for working Sundays.

Blue Sunday

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

It is very difficult to understand how the Administration can now intend to take away, and it is taking away, from the individual in the employ of the Library before Jan 1, 1938 the title of Professional Assistant providing that they are employed in a Department doing Professional work. There are many departments which are not doing professional work and they should have another name but the name Non-Professional is not in keeping with the work done.

Getting back to the 1938ers. When the exam system went into effect, individuals were told that they were not compelled to take exams but would be placed at the 3rd step level with the title as Professional Assistant. The wording of "have not qualified prior to Jan 1, 1958" is contradicting the previous paragraph. Is it the intention of this new classification to penalize this class? Some of these employees have been doing professional work for 20 years. If they were not good enough to have done their jobs they should have been replaced a long time ago.

Let's take care first of the individuals now employed and bother about new individuals coming in, of which, as I understand, are very few and far between. The salaries offered to new people do not compare with the outside so the "experts" as needed in this new setup will not be found. The old-timers will carry on as they have done in the last 20 years or more.

'38-er

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

At long last the Boston Public Library is getting in line with other large public libraries of comparable size, and establishing standards for professional employees that will give support to demands for for more adequate professional salaries.

In the long pull this should benfit all concerned. The old system has created a vicious circle. A below-standard salary schedule failed to attract and keep properly qualified professional staff members. Of necessity standards for professional librarian were diluted to permit those without full qualifications to fill the gaps. Sub-professionals with qualifications equal or superior to those possessed by some already "blanketed" into the professional service could see no reason why they should not be allowed to qualify by the "side door" (by standards that were recognized only within the Boston Public Library). The result has been further dilution of the professional staff.

Recognition and insistence on minimum professional qualifications generally required in other large libraries should aid in recruiting and maintaining a staff that will be professional in fact as well as in name.

Giving the Sub-Professional new avenues of advancement through the new Non-Professional Service removes the necessity for diluting the Professional Service.

The new Pre-Professional Service should be the maximum concession to those wanting to enter the Professional Service without full qualifications.

Persimmon

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

The Salary scale for Non-Professional Library Service is far out of line.

NP 1 and NP 2 differ by 4 levels on the salary grid (V to IX) NP 2 and NP 3 differ by 3 levels (IX to XII).

But now comes the real differential between NP 3 and NP 4, between Non-Professional Library Assistant and General Library Assistant, and there is a difference of only 2 levels (from XII to XIV) or $415.00.

A better overall study of this bug should be made.

Frustrated

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

Being one of the "pre-1938" group left by the wayside when the steps were passed around indiscriminately, irrespective of qualifications, or years of service, I was quite jostled on hearing the Director, at the October 9th meeting, use the phrase "previously existing discrepencies" in referring to the "pre-1938" group. Who, but the Director, himself, is responsible for these "previously existing discrepencies"?

In 1938 Mr. Lord placed in Step V, individuals of both varying and similar backgrounds, some with college degrees, who had passed all the examinations of that particular era; others, who had to their credit only the "E" examination, and at least one individual, with no academic background, who had never taken an entrance examination. At the same time, he followed the same pattern in Step III - placing in this group, persons of similar and varying backgrounds, regardless of qualifications.

By what process of reasoning did the Director arrive at these decisions? Were the favored individuals the Library politicians; or, were their names just pulled out of a hat?

One of them

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

According to my interpretation of the revised proposal personnel classification as of Jan. 1, 1958, anyone in the pre-1938 group in step 3 who has not taken any examination since then automatically becomes a non-professional. In this group, classed as professional in 1938, are many who are doing recognized professional work and are proficient in their work due to their years and years of experience. Would it not be more just, and also to the advantage of the library, that each one in this group be classed and rated according to the type of work he is performing? How can anyone once classed as a professional and performing recognized professional work all these years suddenly become a non-professional?

Disturbed

ANNUAL ALUMNAE TEA

There is always something special about a tenth anniversary, and the tenth annual Alumnae Tea held on September 21, with Edith Guerrier, Supervisor of Branch Libraries, Emeritus, as hostess, was no exception. It was the hottest day on which any of the teas had been held; it was attended by the second largest number to attend to date; if found everyone in exceptionally good health; it welcomed back Dorothy Nourse Pitman, the original Chairman of the caterers and now Branch Librarian In New York City; and it initiated into the mysteries of Eneritusship Marion C. Kingman whose retirement had not yet gone into effect.

In addition to Miss Kingman and Mrs. Pitman, there were present the following: Mary E. Ames, Mrs. Ada A. Andelman, Mrs. Harold R. Doaghue, Beatrice M. Flanagan, Ethel M. Hazlewood, Mrs. Sara A. Lyon, Margaret I. MCGovern, Elizabeth P. Ross, Mary M. Sullivan, Geneva Watson, and Rebecca E. Willia. Missing from the group were six to whom warm greetings are sent herewith: Mrs. Edith H. Bailey, who sent a message from her new home in Hawaii; M. Florence Cufflin, who was seeing a nephew off to Rome and thereby missed being present for the first time in ten years; Alice M. Jordan, who just returned home after spending the summer in Grand Manan; Clara L. Maxwell; Carrie L. Morse; and Katherine S. Rogan.

The same caterers (The 8-8), who have served at all the previous tea, presented Miss Guerrier with a decorated birthday cake in honor of her 87 birthday, which was the day before.

Virginia Haviland showed colored slides taken in England when she was there last May and June, and several excellent pictures taken at the tea in 1956.

There was time for friendly reminiscing; time to vote this tenth tea one of the most successful; and time to say, "See you next September."

Sarah M. Usher

Branch Notes - West End

Miss Fanny Goldstein, co-chairman of the Freedom, Inc. program celebrating Constitution Day, spoke at the excercises held in the Hall of Flags at the State House on September 17th, when seventy-four Good Citizenship citations were given to Massachusetts people. In her talk, Miss Goldstein paid tribute to those immigrants and sons of immigrants who received the awards. She also spoke about the far-reaching aspects of good citizenship, and how recognition of the value of it on a local level can help it to grow on both national and international levels.

Business Branch

The Business Branch staff was entertained at the home of Elizabeth Scannell on September 16th, in honor of Jeanne Fitzgerald, who has resigned to work for a Master's degree in Library Science at Simmons College. Jeanne was presented with the practical, if unsentimental, gift of a zippered leather case to hold her books and papers.

Refreshments were served by Betty Scannell, who demonstrated a skilled hand with a chocolate eclair.

Jeanne is missed at Kirstein. She was a joy to work with, and has the qualities which should bring her a rewarding career in the library world.

Brighton Branch

On Thursday evening, September 12, a party was held at the Brighton Branch for members of the Summer Reading Club and their parents. Thirty seven boys and girls who had read and reported on ten or more books during the summer months received Certificates of Progress. As a result of a Summer Reading Club visit to the Central Library at Copley Square, an essay contest on the subject: "What I Think of the Central Library" was sponsored by the Branch. At the party winners of the contest were awarded book prizes, which also were given to the two children who had submitted the best written book reports during the summer.

The high point of the evening was the presentation of a puppet show "Cinderalla" by the children of the Monastery Road Little Puppet Theatre, under the able direction of Mrs. John V. Troy, Jr. of Brighton. Mrs. Troy, a talented and public-spirited mother of three small children, organized and instructed, during the summer, a group of neighborhood children who made and dressed the puppets, prepared their own scenery, and acted in the play. The stage was the handiwork of Mr. John V. Troy, Jr. To Mrs. Troy and the children goes much credit for a spirited production and a fine community project.

Punch and cookies were served at the conclusion of the program.

An Interesting Essay: "On the morning of Aug. 29, 1957, 23 girls and boys from the library Reading Club in Brighton climbed aboard trooly no. 3164 and went to the library's central branch at Copley Square, Boston.

On the library's stone wall the words "THE PUBLIC LIBRARY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON BUILT BY THE PEOPLE AND DEDICATED TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF LEARNING" were engraved.

We saw a whole hall for taking out books something we had never seen before. Then we went around to the courtyard and many of us just couldn't keep from saying "OH" and "AH".

Up the marble steps we went and on the step we met two life-size lions. We went into a room with a hand-carved ceiling, we met Sir Galahead on the walls of that room. On one side of that was a door. The door was lined with Italian red marble.

Outside on the wall we saw John Sargent's beautiful murils. What would please us more than to see movies? That's just what we saw and it was none other than THE LITTLE TIN SOLDIER AND MADELINE.

We then went to the children's room and saw 19 groups of books waiting for us. Where could we see how books were bound? In the Binding Room! It was arranged for us to see how books were bound. Then we climbed aboard Trolly no. 3193. We think we had a pretty full morning, do you?"

Robin Aronstam
77 Warren St.
Brighton, formerly of
New York

(Robin is nine, and her own spelling is copied)

A WEDDING -- AND A SEQUEL

On Saturday, September 28, Catherine M. Doherty, formerly of Records, Files, Statistics, wearing a beautiful gown of Chantilly lace and nylon tulle trimmed with sequins and pearls, became the bride of Charles M. Kane, USMR, of Worcester. A nuptial mass was celebrated in St. Patrick's Church, Dudley Street. The wedding party included -- besides the brides's sister as maid of honor, in pink taffeta, and four bridesmaids in blue taffeta -- two flower girls, in pink taffeta, and one ring bearer in full dress Marine uniform, matching in every detail those worn by the groom, the best man, and the ushers. Following the ceremony the couple left the church by passing under an arch formed of swords held in place by eight Marines. The flower girls, cousins of the bride, are daughters of James Barry, Buildings.

The reception which followed in Brighton was highlighted by the cutting of the cake in traditional Marine fashion. To the tune of "From the Halls of MonteZuma" three Marines marched smartly down the length of the hall to present the sword to the groom so that he might cut the first piece of wedding cake with it. The bride's bouquet was caught by Shirley Gildea, Information.

Mr. and Mrs. Kane left for a honeymoon in Florida. And there by hangs a sequel! By the time they reached Washington, they were having so much trouble with their car that they decided to turn back and spend a few days in New York rather than going farther South. One of their amusements on Thursday afternoon was attending a TV show, BEAT THE CLOCK. Relatives and friends in Boston, surprised at seeing the supposedly Florida-bound couple appearing on TV in New York, were increasingly excited when the couple reappeared not only Friday, but again on Monday, winning for themselves a long list of gifts (and proving, incidentally, to doubters that these things really do happen!): Electric appliances-- refrigerator, clothes washer and dryer, dish washer, deep freeze, toaster, coffee percolator; Caloric gas range; set of Royal Jackson China; bridge table and for chairs; leather chair with built-in massage equipment; complete set of pots and pans; two lamps; perfume; cashmere coat; shoes; gloves; and pocketbook --and maybe more! Mr. and Mrs. Kane will make their home in Worcester.

Sarah M. Usher

AVE at que 'VALE

The Branch Librarians and Department Chiefs of the Division of Home Reading and Community Services had as their guest of honor, Marion Chestina Kingman, at a party held in the Staff Lounge on Thursday, October 3rd, 1957. John M. Carroll, Chief Librarian, HRCS, presented Miss Kingman with a gift of a purse of money from her associates. Miss Kingman in a sparkling and witty acceptance of this token, recalled her early library days (pre-BPL). In one library she was allowed to work for 100 hours and received no remuneration except that she was reimbursed for her carfare, 10 cents a day. (Editor's note: Mayor Hynes, you can't do it here!) This was a probationary period. After 100 hours, if they liked you, you got paid! Among the alumni present were Alice M. Jordan, Margaret McGovern, Mrs. Sara A. Lyon, M. Florence Cufflin and Elizabeth P. Ross.

Miss Kingman recently retired as Branch Librarian at the South End Branch Library after 33 years of devoted service as a Branch Librarian at Dorchester and South End, and 44 years in the library profession. Miss Kingman received her formal education and library training at Columbia University, Pratt Institute and the University of Chicago. Prior to her work in the Boston Public Library she was a library assistant in Providence, R. I., Wellesley, Mass., and Waterbury, Conn.

Miss Kingman has always been a vital force in the community in which she worked. Both in Dorchester and in the South End her contributions to the betterment of her community were recognized and appreciated. She was active in the affairs of the South End Community Council, collaborated with the South End Business-

men's Association in their Clean-up, Paint-Up, Fix-Up Drives, worked closely with The South End House, and cooperated in every way with the schools in the South End. She set an example and inspired her staff to follow her high standards of public service. In recognition of her efforts, the South End Planning Council presented her with a citation for meritorious service.

Now that she has formally departed from our ranks, she nevertheless is continuing her quest for knowledge and showing her love for learning by enrolling in three courses at Boston University, and promises to make full use of the facilities of her beloved library. We are sorry to see her go, but we are glad that she will continue to visit us often.

POSTSCRIPT TO THE BOOK FESTIVAL

A summer of preparation by seven hard-working committees and many BPL staff members culminated in a week of successful, albeit feverish activity, when on September 15, 1957, the Book Festival opened in the Lecture Hall with a continuing display of close to 1,000 books as well as five programs, emphasizing Challenging Ideas in Contemporary Living.

The community response to the Festival was most gratifying, from the point of initial planning to the final attendance at the programs. Thirty-two individuals representing twenty-five separate organizations in a total planning committee of sixty-two; another thirty-two individuals, including public figures, scientists, and authors contributed their time and talents as program participants; in the course of the week 600 persons signed our guest books while visiting the book displays, while approximately 1,200 persons attended the programs.

Figures alone cannot express the unstinting cooperation the Library was given nor the warm appreciation which has been expressed to us since the Festival closed. All of us of the BPL Staff who worked so hard to make the Festival a success can share now in the pleasant afterglow.

Veronica T. Yotts, Chairman
Book Festival Committee

Going to the

A. L. A. CONFERENCE

in Los Angeles

in 1958?

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Mildred C. O'Connor
A. L. A. Membership Committee
General Reference Department

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 1957

THE QUESTION MARK

Published by the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association

Volume XII, Number 11 November 15, 1957

Publications Committee: Charles J. Gillis, Emelia Lange, Isabel M. Martino, Catherine D. O'Halloran, B. Joseph O'Neil, Claire P. O'Toole, Sarah Richman, Mary R. Roberts, Gerald L. Ball, Chairman.

Publication date: The fifteenth of each month

Deadline for submitting material The tenth of each month

EDITORIAL NOTES

During the past several weeks we have seen the value of communication, the free flow of ideas, and the part our Association plays in helping to gather the opinions of individual members, to consider them, and to present them to the administration. The Association which comprises most of the bibliothecal staff gives weight and authority to these opinions to a degree that it would be most difficult for an individual or smaller group to attain. Those who direct the affairs of our Association have a grave responsibility to solicit and give a sympathetic ear to the opinions and proposals of its members.

In a matter as vital as a new salary schedule and new classification plan for personnel, there are bound to be differences of opinion as to the value, the logic, and the fairness of its provisions. But, after careful deliberation, The association must take a stand for certain proposals and against others. To arrive at these decisions in a democratic manner, each and every member who wishes to be heard should be given ample opportunity to present his ideas in whatever manner he chooses, as long as he respects the rights of others.

However fair we try to be, it is only human nature that each seeks his own self interest in one way or another. And we may feel that our own opinions, whether they be of the minority or of the majority, have greater validity than others. Every one has a right to his opinion, but what is equally important, every one has a right to express that opinion. And however much one may disagree with another's ideas or proposals, we think that all should agree that he ought to be given the opportunity to express himself.

The firmer the conviction, the more positive and definite is the expression of that conviction likely to be. In the heat of discussion, there are almost inevitably clashes of personalities. Some are sure that the proposals of others are based on misconceptions, misinformation or on a foundation of injustice. But to impugn the motives of another is certainly unwise. It will make for much better feelings, if we freely grant that those with whom we disagree, are sincere and are men and women of good will. For in the final outcome, the majority will prevail, and the Association will speak for all.

Disagree and discuss. But respect the author of a contrary opinion. Use the machinery of the Association to present your ideas. The more that members use their Association, the more effective will the Association be in representing them.

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

At the meeting of the Executive Board held on Oct. 15, 1957 the Board approved the appointment of Miss Veronica Yotts as Chairman of the Seminar on the Future of the Boston Public Library to be held on Feb. 7, 1958. This was done in accordance with a motion passed by the Staff Association.

No action was taken at the time of the original motion and it was subsequently moved to delay action until a future date. It still remained as an item of unfinished business and the present Executive Board felt that in view of the proposed expansion in the area of the Central Library and in other areas of the city it would be advantageous to have this Seminar in 1958. It is intended that this program will be a single session designed to answer the questions of the Staff concerning the role of the B.P.L. in a changing City.

The Executive Board also passed a motion That "After Jan. 1, 1958 the Question Mark shall be mailed free of charge only to those members of the B.P.L. Staff who have retired because they have reached 60 years of age or older.

With regard to the study of the Classification and salary schedule currently being made by the Executive Board and Personnel Committee it was decided to have the President give to the membership a detailed account of the work that has been done by this combined committee. A full report of all action taken by the joint committee will be incorporated in the minutes of the November Business Meeting.

William T. Casey
President

PERSONNEL NOTES

New Employees

Margaret G. Francis - Teachers
Frank Benoit - Audio Visual
Laura M. Bondi - Mattapan (formerly in the Director's Office)
Helen F. Doyle - Book Purchasing (formerly in the same department)
B. Gertrude Wade - Codman Square (formerly at the same branch library)
Nancy L. Settles - Central Charging Records

Ceased

Rosalie Humphries - Mason Adams Street

Married

Angela Sacco - Allston, to Michael Siraco, October 12, 1957

Transferred

Richard D. Fritz - from Mattapan to Bookmobiles
Anita N. Ross - from Bookmobiles to Open Shelf
Mary E. Heller - from Codman Square Branch Library to Parker Hill
Mary L. Shea - from Charlestown to Bookmobiles
Michael J. Venezia - from Book Stack Service to Cataloging and Classification, Division of Reference and Research Services
Lois G. Goddard - from City Point to South Boston
Mary A. LaFollette - from City Point to South Boston
Martha Engler - from City Point to South Boston

NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

National Library Week, March 16 through 22, 1958, sponsored by the National Book Committee, Inc., in cooperation with the American Library Association is the first united drive of the communications industry to increase the number of readers in America. It will be supported by newspaper magazine, and book publishers, their printers and suppliers, throughout the United States.

The National Book Committee has appointed a Steering Committee to oversee operations and is enlarging its staff. Harold Guinzburg, President of the Viking Press, is chairman of the steering committee. John S. Robling, former advertising and promotion director for McCall Corporation's Pattern Division, is in charge of Public

Relations for the National Book Committee and will direct National Library Week.

It is expected that National Library Week will increase support for libraries from the highest levels of leadership in economic, professional and cultural life of the country. Among other aims of National Library Week will be the goal to promote prestige for reading itself. The drive will show the vital role libraries can play in the fun of reading aloud in the family, the rewards of reading as a leisure-time activity, and the contribution of reading to career advancement.

Miss Elizabeth J. Hodges, Chairman of the American Library Association Massachusetts Committee for National Library Week, and John Humphry, President of the Massachusetts Library Association had announced the acceptance of the chairmanship of the Massachusetts Committee for National Library Week by Erwin D. Canham, President of the Board of Trustees of the Boston Public Library.

PROGRAM PLANNERS INSTITUTES

The Boston Public Library was awarded a Citation of Merit for the Program Planners Institutes by the Adult Education Association of Massachusetts on October 19, 1957 at the annual meeting of the Association in Fall River. An Evaluation Committee consisting of five judges, made the selection from nominations submitted from the entire state.

Mrs. Helen F. Hirson, Extension Librarian representing the Boston Public Library; and Alden Eberly, Assistant General Secretary, Young Men's Christian Association, representing the Adult Education Association of Massachusetts; served as Co-Chairmen of the two Institutes.

BRANCH NOTES WEST END

The Theological Librarians of Greater Boston gathered at West End Branch on Friday evening, October 26th, for their fall meeting. The librarians were guests of Miss Fanny Goldstein who arranged a special Friday-evening Jewish ritual observance for the benefit of the non-Jewish members. They witnessed the lighting of the Sabbath candles the reciting of the Kiddush over the Sabbath wine and the breaking of the symbolic bread-loaf by Harry H. Fein, the noted Boston author. A buffet supper followed the religious blessing. Speaking honors were shared by Miss Goldstein who told about the history of the Branch and Mr. Fein whose topic of theological interest was "Great Jewish Books."

In honor of the advent of her thirty-sixth year as Librarian of West End Branch the Christian Science Monitor published a feature article about Miss Goldstein on Monday, November 4th. Homage from this fine newspaper does credit to the Library as well as to Miss Goldstein herself for her many years of excellent administrative service.

The children of West End were treated to a special Hallowe'en story hour on Thursday, October 31st. It was a costume party complete with ghost stories, refreshments and a large vegetable-featured jack'o'lantern, courtesy of a local emporium, the Fruit Orchard.

The fifth new and revised edition of the "Jewish Child in Book Land", compiled and edited by Miss Fanny Goldstein, has recently been issued. Published by the Jewish Book Council of America, this is an invaluable bibliography of Jewish juveniles.

Connolly Branch Notes:

Marilyn Cunningham, Extra Assistant at Connolly, has been chosen to represent her Senior Class at Blessed Sacrament High School in a Round Table Discussion on TV Channel 2, 7:15 PM, Nov. 28th. The topic which Marilyn and three other students from Boston schools will discuss with Registrar of Motor Vehicles, Rudolph King, is "Safety on the Highway."

"The Lost Has Returned", One of the children's books at Connolly Branch was recently returned after having traveled abroad for almost two years. It had accibeen stowed away in the trunk of relatives who were about to embark for England. The Connolly Staff was delighted to have her, or rather it, back from her, or rather its, travels. The title of the book-"Mary Poppins comes back" P.S. Transaction and book cards were intact.

Joyce P. Ellis
(M.iM.)

Congratulations:

We wish to congratulate Catherine A. Farrell of the Accounting Dept. on her transfer from Accountant to Senior Accountant to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Mrs. Grace Caution. We know that Kay who is a graduate of the Bentley School of Accounting and Finance will make good on the duties so well performed by Mrs. Caution.

Coming Events:

Nov. 19, 1957 - Mens Librarians Club At Waltham Boys Club and Waltham Public Library

Nov. 25, 1957-- SLA Boston Chapter meets at Womans Archive Collection, Byerly Hall, Radcliffe College 7:00 PM Dinner at Chev Dreyfus French Restaurant 44 Church St. Cambridge, at 6:00 PM. A complete roast beef will be served for $3.00

Scholarships:

The Scholarship and Student Loan Fund Committee of the Special Libraries Association announces two $1,000 scholarships for the academic year 1958-1959. These will be granted for graduate study in librarianship leading to a degree at an accredited library school. Applicants must be college graduates of high academic achievement who need financial assistance in obtaining the professional education necessary for work in the special library field.

Application blanks and details of eligibility for the scholarship award may be obtained from the Executive Secretary, Special Libraries Association, 31 East Tenth St., New York 3, New York. Applications must be received by the Scholarship and Student Loan Fund Committee of the Association by March 1, 1958. The recipients of the awards will be announced at the annual convention of the Association in Chicago, Illinois, June 1958.

A HELPING HAND FROM LIBRARY STAFF

The 1958 United Fund Campaign promises to be very successful. Already $500 more has been pledged than a year ago. To date, the staff has pledged $2,996.50. With a little more effort on the part of everyone, the BPL Staff may be able to boast of breaking its own ten year record. That was a pledge to the Community Fund which was just over $3,000. Let's do-it again!

SOUTH BOSTON BRANCH

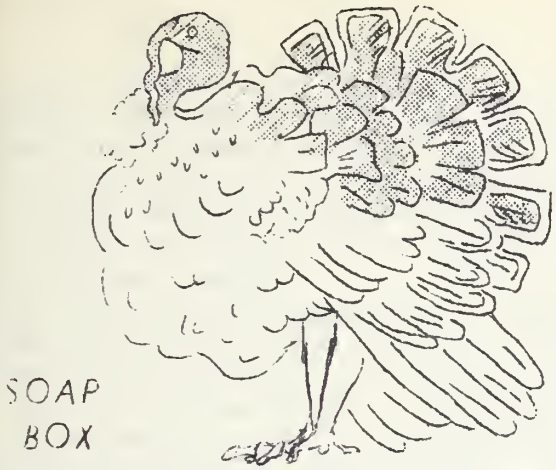
On Thursday, October 3., 1957 the new South Boston Branch was formally opened and dedicated with appropriate speeches by Mr. Lord, Erwin D. Canham, President of the Board of Trustees and his Honor Mayor John B. Hynes. Mrs. Irene H. Tuttle received the keys to the beautiful building and extended a very cordial invitation to the people of the neighborhood to avail themselves of the library facilities. After the brief but impressive ceremonies those present were taken on a tour of the building and served cider and doughnut holes.

Then the children were led into the new auditorium, entertained by Martha Catherine Engler, the childrens librarian.

In the evening a program was held under auspices of the South Boston Citizens Association which opened with a Salute to the flag and a prayer by Rev. John T. Powers, Pastor of the Gate of Heaven Church.

It had to happen.

Last week a very distinguished gentleman appeared in the Music Room and announced that he wished to see Mr. Standish. Miss Kneelland thought fast and asked "do you by any chance mean Mr. John Alden?" "Yes, of course." he said. "Thank-You."



Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department, or Office in which he or she is employed. The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is known only to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of the articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only these contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

The use of a grid in formulating the proposed salary scale would seem to be reasonable up to a certain point.

Why is the gap between the salary of the chief librarians and the director so great? In the first place it is not reasonable to place the top official so far above the next in line. In the second place it would seem that possible the gap were left in order, at a later date, to insert a middle man with a title of possibly assistant director.

Let's close the gap in fairness to the chief librarians and prevent the appointment of the often proposed middle man, a superfluous position.

According to this salary scale one individual will reach his maximum in about three increments. Most of us will have to receive three increments before we reach the minimum designated. How long will it take you to reach your maximum?

GAPING & GAPPING

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

When it is determined which positions are to be NP2 and NP3, and appointments are to be made, will the incumbents receive automatic appointments even though others in the system may be better qualified by experience, training and personality for the positions? The best qualified persons should have opportunity to compete for these jobs.

Enpee

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

When is the lowly "extra" going to get a break? How does the pay given to the extra assistant compare with that paid to part-time student jobs outside the Library? Not very favorably judging by the difficulty we have been having in getting and keeping our "extras". And the most unfair deal of all is the Sunday situation. How can we expect anyone to travel back and forth to the library, pay out carfare, and work for four hours for a measly three dollars?

Fair Play

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

There is no reason why the proposed reclassification should cause any doubts concerning the continued eligibility of any present member in the Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association. Eligible for membership now are all full-time members of the bibliothecal staff (including both professionals and sub-professionals) except the Director. Those in the present bibliothecal service will be included in the new classification in the Professional Service, Pre-Professional Service and Non-Professional Library Service, or possibly in a "Library Service", or "General Library Service".

If, and when, a new classification does become effective, it might be in order to

propose amendments to the Constitution changing the name to The Boston Public Library Staff Association and defining eligibility in terms of the new classification, whatever the nomenclature would be for the equivalent of the present bibliothecal service.

Hair-splitting, scrupulosity in regard to who will be eligible to continue membership is unwarrented, for in the final analysis it is the intent of the members as expressed by a vote of the membership that will determine eligibility.

Bibb Leo

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

I think that the member ship of the Association owes a vote of thanks to those few who have indicated their willingness to be candidates for election as officers of members of the Executive Board. It is easy to find excuses for not being a candidate. Too busy? Who isn't? Other outside activities? Who hasn't?

The Association plays an important part in reflecting and refining the opinions and attitudes of its membership. It not only helps to shape and formalize the ideas of its constituents, but it gives to them the force and authority of an organization representing most of the library staff. The organization, planning and direction of the activities of the Association are largely in the hands of the members of the Executive Board. The Board members have an important and responsible function. They deserve the interest ed support of all.

Give a little time and cooperation to make their jobs easier and our organization stronger and more representative. Pay your dues. Vote (by absentee ballot if there is the least doubt about getting to the polls). Serve on committees, Participate.

E. PLURIBUS

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

The latest issue of Books Current, No. 2, 1957, under Social Problems on page 39, lists the following entry:

"In the court of public opinion" by Alger Hiss The principal actor in the famous Hiss-Chambers treason case tells his side of the story."

To purchase a copy of the Hiss book for the Reference Division for the record is one thing; to purchase multiple copies for circulation in the Division of Home Reading is quite another, and highly questionable.

A check of the record reveals that this propaganda book of a convicted perjurer was purchased for 21 Branches, the Open Shelf Dept., the 3 Bookmobiles and the Branch Issue Dept.

This is a very unhealthy situation. How can we face the appropriating authorities with the damaging and damning evidence of perversion of the minds of our patrons and prostituting our profession.

If our established safeguards surrounding Book Selection are not exercised with wisdom and common sense, we open ourselves to criticism and invite censorship from without.

As a public library our responsibility is to develop a wholesome attitude toward government and a healthy respect for our laws and courts. Flaunting the Hiss book in the faces of our patrons is like condoning delinquent behavior.

How far to the left are we going? Or are we there already? Let's stay in the middle of the road.

The Guardians

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

The professional librarians in subject departments in the Division of Reference and Research Services are entitled to extra remuneration both because of the highly specialized knowledge required in such departments, and the consequent lack of opportunity for easy transfer from one unit to another, and because there is a very limited opportunity for advancement within each such department.

It is argued that a similar problem of differential exists where there are branches of different sizes, and that perhaps branch librarians of larger branches should receive larger salaries than the librarians of smaller branches. Here the problem is different. The problem in the subject departments concerns principally the subject specialists at the proposed P1, P2 and P3 levels, whereas the problem in the branch libraries concerns the branch librarian at the proposed P4 level. At the P 4 level it is to be expected that promotional possibilities will be limited

within the system.

It also has been suggested that if one differential is recognized, similar consideration should be given to other differentials, including increases for individual merit, which have proven to be unworkable in libraries which have tried them. Again this is quite a different problem. Merit increases as such may not be feasible, but is not individual merit considered each time a person presents himself as a condidate for appointment or advancement? The only failing here is that are few such opportunities to show recognition of merit in the specialized subject departments.

The subject departments in the Division of Reference and Research Services have been compared to a collection of separate libraries, and indeed the comparison in apt. It has been suggested further that if a librarian in a particular special library found that the opportunities for advancement were very limited in that library, he would seek employment in some other library, and in this manner the law of supply and demand would operate. It is precisely to forestall this exodus of trained subject specialists from the Boston Public Library that the proposal was made to give a differential to these individuals as an inducement to stay. Or does the BPL operate as training center for other special libraries?

SPASHUL

The slate of officers of the Association for the coming year has been announced.

All members should be sure to make use of the absentee ballot if they can't vote in person.

WEDDING

The wedding of Felicia Langdon, Open Shelf, and Euclid Peltier, Chief of Audio Visual, was one of the bright, gala occasions of the Library this fall. The popular couple was married in St. Paul's Church in Wellesley, Sunday afternoon, September 22, with Rev. Father Sullivan officiating at the ceremony. The reception, which was held at the Phi Sigma Society House on the beautiful Wellesley College Campus, was attended by a large portion of the staff among the happy couple's many friends.

The bride's ballerina length gown, in keeping with the season, was of satin with a shoulder length candle-light illusion. The autumn tones used set the color scheme. Her only attendant was Veronica Yotts, Office of the Division of Home Reading, who also wore a satin gown of the same hues. The groom's best man was his brother, Frieland Peltier. Daniel Koury, Music, was an usher along with Milton Trebach and Peter LaPrad, brother-in-law of the groom.

The honeymoon trip included visits to glamorous Bermuda, gay New York and peaceful Vermont. They will reside at 306 Marlborough Street, Boston.

DON'T

FORGET

CARE

THE Question MARK

THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 1957

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Volume XII, Number 12 December, 1957

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EDITORIAL NOTES

Have you ever considered how especially proper to librarians is the spirit of giving which is so intimately associated with the season of Christmas? For the ideal of public service, of serving our neighbors, friends and strangers, is fundamental to librarianship. It matters little where we fit into the pattern of this service, whether as typist, cataloger, children's librarian, reference librarian, bibliographer, or administrator, whether in one division or another, we all assist in helping to satisfy those who come to us in search of the light of Knowledge and the truth. Whatever our duties and tasks, they have little meaning and purpose, unless we have in our hearts the feeling that we are giving of ourselves in a sincere and earnest effort to serve all who come to us.

Books, buildings and catalogs are necessary componentsof the library, but unless men and women of good will give service of high calibre, we might have only a storage warehouse with movers, packers and guards. We are privileged to be librarians. It is appropriate at this season to recall that the service we give makes the Library live. Unless we give of ourselves in service to others, the Library is without life --- and we are less than librarians.

THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

CHRISTMAS CHEERS

THE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE, WARMLY EXTEND TO ONE AND ALL A VERY SPIRITED CHRISTMAS AND A MOST JOYFUL NEW YEAR. LET US ALL PARTICIPATE IN MAKING THIS FESTIVE SEASON A MEMORABLE ONE.

PERSONNEL NOTES

New Employees

Mrs. Helen N. Bickford - Dorchester
Mrs. Evelyn Kornmuller - South End
Mrs. Helen V. Rothwell - Adams Street
Thomas W. Killilea - Book Stack Service
Joan A. Ames - Office of Division of Reference & Research Services
Mrs. Corrina Henderson - Central Charging Records
Mrs. Ellen M. Gurney - Book Stack Service (former member of this dept.)
Jeanette L. Dellanno - Book Stack Service
Jerome J. McAndrew - Book Stack Service

Resignations

Robert F. Ferris - Book Stack Service - to accept a position with the Northeast Airlines
Peter Simoglou - Dorchester
Mrs. Leslie A. Vance - East Boston to remain at home
Mrs. Barbara A. Simon - Dorchester to remain at home
Ellen E. Richwagen - South End to accept an appointment as Assistant Instructor with assignment to the Library at the State Teachers College at Boston
Mary A. Roberts - Office of Division of Home Reading and Community Services-to accept a position in the library of the State Teachers College at Boston

Transferred

Jennie M. Femino - from Jamaica Plain to South Boston
Ruth E. McNamee - from South Boston to Jamaica Plain

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

At the December Meeting the Executive Board considered a series of reccomendations submitted by members of the Reference Division concerning changes in the examination requirements in the special fields. These recomendations will be studied further by a joint meeting of the Executive Board and the Personnel Committee.

The Library is planning an extensive program in conjunction with the celebration of National Book Month in March. In this connection Mrs. Geraldine Altman, Librarian, Jamaica Plain has been selected as the representative of the Staff Association on the Steering Committee.

William T. Casey
President

WEST END BRANCH IS A BUSY SPOT THESE DAYS!

On November 20th, the Yiddish Culture Club of Boston presented a program at the West End Branch in honor of Jewish Book Month. Dr. Solomon Lipp, Professor at Boston University spoke in Yiddish to a large and attentive audience on the state of Yiddish letters in South America, which he visited last summer. Mr. Aaron Moldaw presided. Fanny Goldstein, Librarian, & Curator offered greetings and a social hour followed.

On December 1, a reception and tea was held at the West End Branch for Myron S. Kaufmann, author of REMEMBER ME TO GOD, as part of Jewish Book Month celebrations. A native of Boston, Mr. Kaufmann enjoyed an overflowing attendance. His talk on After Marquand What-non-Yankee Novelist, was followed by a most stimulating question and answer period, which was a compliment both to the speaker and to the audience. Dr. S. Norman Feingold, Director of the Jewish Vocational Bureau of Boston was chairman, and Fanny Goldstein, Librarian welcomed the guests to the beautifully decorated Library.

On December 5th, the Beth Jacob Ladies Club of the West End, which is both a social and philanthropic organization held their annual meeting at the West End Branch. Coposed mainly of housewives, with a

sprinkling of career women, they listened avidly as Miss Goldstein spoke to them on the latest literary harvest in the field of Judaica, as part of Jewish Book Month observance. Many books were circulated after the meeting, and the discussion went on over the coffee cups.

On December 8, also as part of Jewish Book Month, a program was held in the Lecture Hall of the Boston Public Library, honoring the 10th Anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel. Mr. Ralph Goldman, Executive Director of the Anniversary Celebration in America spoke on the purpose and goals behind the idea, and outlined the many programs planned for next year both in Israel and in other countries. Dr. Bernard Gould, Professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, related the miraculous survival and growth of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Miss Fanny Goldstein represented the Boston Jewish Book Month Committee, and Mr. Jacob Kaplan was chairman of the afternoon.

On Wednesday, December 11, and Thursday December 12, Mr. Frank Lavine, Assistant at the West End Branch, Spoke on Yiddish literature especially as it appears in English translation to two Golden Age groups. The talks were a tribute to Jewish Book Month, and were given at the Brighton Community Center and the Hecht Neighborhood House in Dorchester.

On Saturday, December 14th, Miss Fanny Goldstein was hostess to the full-time Staff of the Branch, at a luncheon at Aux Beauchamps, on Beacon Hill. The event was to usher in both the Hanukkah and Christmas holiday season.

On Wednesday, November 27, the West End Branch was host to eighty children, fifth graders from the Peter Faneuil School, at a post Children's Book Week Celebration. Miss Elizabeth Johnson, Supervisor of Children's work at the Lynn Public Library and author of THE LITTLE KNIGHT, entertained the children with stories and an account of how she came to write her book. After a lively question period, the children dispersed to examine exhibits of new books and original illustrations in the children's room.

Miss Winnick guest of honor:

On Sunday evening November 17, Jane Manthorne entertained the Young Adult workers at her charming home in Brockton, in honor of Pauline Winnick newly appointed Deputy Supervisor in Charge of Work with Young Adults. Sharing the spotlight with Miss Winnick was her mother, Mrs. A. C. Rome. A buffet-supper, served with precision and efficiency, in the true Manthorne tradition, was artistically and tastefully arranged and thoroughly enjoyed by the guests.

Miss Manthorne was assisted in serving by her mother, Mrs. Alice Manthorne and friend, Jean Cingolani. Good food, as is often the case, stimulated a lively conversational give-and-take and the evening passed all too quickly. Boston, Monday morning and "the salt mines" beckoned with demanding finger. The guests reluctantly left, with appreciative comments to the hostesses for a very happy evening together.

PROFESSIONAL LIBRARIAN NON-PROFESSIONAL SPORT

Arthur W. Mulloney of the Statistical Department, whose average is tops by several points in the Library Bowling League, is also an exceptional golfer. On Sunday, December 15, at the D. W. Field Golf Course in Brockton, Massachusetts, Mr. Mulloney came up with an "eagle" on the difficult par four number six hole. Congratulations, Art, and we hope you have many more eagles and an occasional hole-in-one.

"For I was a hungered and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger and ye took me in:
Matthew 25:35

This Christmas season let us remember those who do not have the good things of life that we have.

CARE

A $1.00, Food Crusade package buys approximately 22 lbs. of food.

All contributions of any amount is acceptable. Staff representatives,, Please Help.

Special Committee for CARE

On Sunday evening November 24th Virginia Haviland entertained the members of the Childrens Book Selection Committee and the members of the staff of the Children's Section, Open Shelf Department. The November chill from the North Atlantic was not evident as the bright flames of the open fire greeted the guests. Against the background of soft music the guests exchanged ideas - and actually discussed subjects not related to childrens books!-. A buffet supper was temptingly arranged and thoroughly enjoyed. The evening which passed all too quickly was climaxed by the showing of a selection of Miss Haviland's pictures which she had taken on her recent trip to England. It is such an easy, and pleasant, not to mention inexpensive, way to spend an evening in England, with feet on the fenders at Beacon Hill.

NEW BOOKS IN THE STAFF LIBRARY

Fiction

Bates, Herbert E.
Summer in Salandar. Boston, Little Brown, 1957.

Bedford, Sybille
A legacy. New York, Simon & Schuster 1957.

Caldwell, Taylor
The sound of thunder. Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1957

Camus, Albert
The fall. New York, Knopf, 1957

Cloete, Rehna
To catch a man. Boston, Houghton-Mifflin, 1957

Cloete, Stuart
The mask. Boston, Houghton-Mifflin, 1957

Du Maurier, Daphne
The Scapegoat. Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1957

Graves, Robert
They hanged my saintly Billy. Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1957

Guthrie, Alfred B.
These thousand hills. Boston, Houghton Mifflin, 1956

Horgan, Paul
Give me possession. New York, Farrar, Straus, and Cudahy, 1957

Norway, Nevil Shute
On the beach, New York, W. Morrow, 1957

Remarque, Erich Maria
The black obelisk. New York, Harcourt, Brace, 1957

Wyckoff, Nicholas E.
The Braintree Mission, New York, Macmillan, 1957

Non-Fiction

Braggiotti, Gloria
Born in a crowd, New York, Crowell, 1957

Bryant, Arthur
The turn of the tide, Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1957

Chipperfield, Faith
In quest of love, New York, Coward-McCann, 1957

Dos Passos, John
The men who made the Nation. Garden City, N.Y., Doubleday, 1957

Lord, Walter
Day of infamy, New York, Holt, 1957

Rodgers, William R.
Ireland in colour, New York, Studio Publications, 1957

Library Science

Asheim, Lester
The humanities and the library. Chicago, American Library Association, 1957

MEN'S HOUSE PARTY

See Mr. Mike Venezia for particulars.

BINDERY RETIREMENTS AT BLINSTRUB'S VILLAGE

GALLAGHER, GANNON AND OVERLAN TOTAL 131 YEARS

On Monday evening December 16th a Reception and Retirement Dinner was given in honor of three retired members of the Staff of the Binding Department.

Mr. Leo H. Overlan, Bindery Finisher who entered the service November 1, 1926 and retired on November 26, 1957.

Mr. James P. J. Gannon, Bindery Finisher who entered service June 1, 1911 and retired on December 10, 1957.

Mr. George W. Gallagher, Bindery Foreman who entered service October 8, 1903 and will retire on December 31, 1957.

Mr. Milton E. Lord, Director and Mr. James P. Mooers, Chief of the Binding Department presented each man with a beautiful bound blue morocco book inscribed with autographs and good wishes from their co-workers through out the Library. With book was a substantial gift of money to purchase their retirement gift.

Mrs. Gallagher and Mrs. Gannon were presented corsages and to Mrs. Overlan who was unable to attend was sent a beautiful blue lounging robe.

Among the 70 guests attending was the former trustee Mr. Francis B. Masterson, Mr. John J. Connolly, Mr. Francis X. Moloney, Mrs. Elizabeth Wright. We would like to list every body but space will not permit.

The usual good Blinstrub's Village floor show seemed to be enjoyed by all.

James P. Mooers

Editors Note:

The above affair was one of the most enjoyable ever held by the Library employees. There was an excellent floor show which featured the Four Voices who sang a variety of sungs for nearly 30 minutes; dancing for those who so desired to the music of Mike Gaylords orchestra; and a meal for the small sum of $3.50.

The Bindery group who really know how to put on a good time did it up real brown this time. We should make a note to attend all future functions sponsored by our top floor fellow employees.

New Junior Editor:

Our fellow Publications Committee member Kay Duffy O'Halloran became the proud mother of Maureen O'Halloran on December 4, 1957. The Lou's bundle of joj weighed in at 6 lb. and 11 oz.. Mother and baby are well. Grandmother Peck reports that baby is having cereal this week and will have applesauce next week.

Congratulations to both Kay and Lou.

Coming Events:

December 23, Staff Party, for details see the announcement sent out by Marion M. Williams.

December 24, Men's House Party under the direction of Mike Venezia BSS.

Any contribution to the Soap Box must be accompanied by the full name of the Association member submitting it, together with the name of the Branch Library, Department or office in which he or she is employed; The name is withheld from publication, or a pen name used, if the contributor so requests. Anonymous contributions are not given consideration. The author of the article is know only to the Editor-in-Chief. The contents of the articles appearing in the Soap Box are personal opinions expressed by individual Association members and their appearance does not necessarily indicate that the Publications Committee and the Association are in agreement with the views expressed. Only those contributions containing not more than 300 words will be accepted.

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

Congratulations to the "Guardians" for expressing their views on a matter of professional integrity. The most important question would seem to be not how far left a promotion may lean but how far we veer away from long-established principles of book selection and still consider ourselves professional librarians. One of the most important of the criteria for book selection in the non-fiction field has been "authoritativeness of material". That this was entirely disregarded in the instance of the Hiss book is easily proven when we realize that this was the work of a convicted perjurer on the very subject on which he was convicted. As to "his side of the story" that was given during a series of trials, appeals etc. and was proven to be untrue and dishonest and therefore not authoritative.

It would be interesting to know how many of the 21 branches that bought the book have the "side" of the United States government - the official documentation of the hearings and the trials of the Hiss case. Do they even have such an authoritative study of the case as the "Red Plot Against America" by Bob Consodine and Stripling? It should also be noted that the book was not only nonauthortative but that it is not noteworthy in style or writing ability. Furthermore, in spite of tremendous advance publicity it did not sell well (except to libraries?). This too is rather late in the day for it to appear on a "Current" list. I realize that the phrase "both sides of a question" carries an emotional impact. Certainly both authoritative sides of a question should be acquired by the library. In addition anything of this type which might have historical significance should be in the central library Nevertheless to do away with any semblance of book selection just to promote material because it is controversial is a narrow view and leads to well-deserved criticism.

Sincerely, Integrity

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

It has been reported that at the Officer's meeting the Director read our letter in the November issue of the Question Mark "in toto." Perhaps the Director was under the illusion that our letter had been written by one of that group. This caused us much amusement.

However, we are not at all amused by the report that the remarks of the Director which followed seem to indicate that the "fair haired children" would continue to receive preferential treatment regardless of background, formal education , or ex-

perience. This would seem to be a bald statement of the policy that appears to have been in operation during the reign of the present administration. This is most disturbing to the rank and file of employees who work hard to meet the official requirements for promotion.

The Director also indicated at subsequent meetings with the staff that the proposed reclassification would be a classification by person as well as by position. To which we might add, "which ever suited the convenience of the administration at the time". A classification by person allows the administration to make exceptions for the "fair haired children." We need a staunch classification by position with requirements that will stick.

THE COLLEGIANS

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

When everywhere in the library we hear cries for space, space, space, one would think that only on the moon would there be enough to satisfy the demands. Or perhaps in the new building? (If we have it before we can reach the moon!). But between now and then, what about the spacious expanse which is used as an anteroom of the Director's office? Has the staff of the Director's office increased so much since the time that space was used for the Registrations Department? Or has it increased at all? An elegant and impressive room, but necessary for what purpose?

Cramped

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

Is it fair for any unit of the Library to be forbidden to serve on committees or to be candidates for office in the BPLPSA?

It is reasonable to expect that on occasion it might not be possible for an individual to attend a particular meeting, but that is not a just cause for disenfranchising a whole unit of the Library as a matter of policy.

Such a course of action is unfair to the individuals concerned and to the Association as a whole. It should not be condoned.

INDIGNANT

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

Why do so many officers of the Library seem to think they are above participating in affairs of the Association? Surely the officers of the Library should feel great responsibility and should have much to offer the Association in ideas and leadership. Maybe it is modesty, but whatever it is, it seems that no amount of persuasion will bring some officers into the active work of the Association. Sometimes they claim they are not fairly represented in the councils of the Association. Is it perhaps because not enough of them make themselves available.

Tired of Trying

To the Editor of the Soap Box:

In a recent news item a member of the Boston City Council has quoted the cost to the City of Boston of providing borrowing privileges to a non-resident of the city as averaging between $12- and $14- per year. It is no wonder that so many non-residents have availed themselves of the privilege when they can do so for only $3.00 a year.

How can we possibly justify continuance of this offer to non-residents? Is it that the City of Boston is so rich that she can afford to give financial assistance to impoverished communities like Brookline, Newton, Dover, etc. For as long as the City of Boston provides service at these bargain rates, the less need there is for these cities and towns to provide full service to its residents.

Is it in the mistaken notion that by so doing we will receive State Aid from the Legislature? The Legislature has shown time and time again that if there is any relief to be given to cities and towns that Boston will receive the short end of it. The MTA, the Suffolk County costs, the MDC costs, are a few of the examples which demonstrate the the Legislature will

not look with favor on giving relief to Boston if it means shifting a fair burden of expenses to the other communities of the state.

It may be that Mr. Piemonte is conservative in estimating costs of borrowing privileges for the non-resident, for through - out the library are heard comments on the extra privileges which the non-resident demands because he has paid his dollar or three dollars. "Would we look up these books and have them waiting for him so he will not have to waste time doing this because he comes so great a distance.""Why can't he renew his books by telephone as he does in his local library?" "Why can't he borrow this town history? What difference does it make if it is out-of-print, in poor condition, and irreplaceable? Hasn't he paid his dollar?"

Like Prohibition it may be an experiment "noble in purpose", BUT, isn't it time for an "agonizing reappraisal"?

Bleeding Boston Taxpayer

THE TRUSTEES OF THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

invite you to attend a reception

in honor of

the Twnety-fifth Anniversary of

MILTON EDWARD LORD

as Director and Librarian

to be held in the Lecture Hall

of the Central Library

Boston

on Monday, December thirtieth

from four to six o'clock

To all staff members:

Your attention is called to the forth coming reception to the Director which was not included in the coming events section.

Because there is a possibility that some members may not have seen the invitation which was sent to all division heads; chiefs; branch librarians; and sections- it is reprinted.

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
Professional Staff Association,

Merry Christmas

"I was hungry
and you gave me to eat;
I was thirsty
and you gave me to drink,
I was a stranger
and you took me in;
naked
and you covered me ....
Amen I say to you, as long as you
did it for one of these, the least of my
brethren, you did it for Me."

CARE

December 16 1957

Special Committee - CARE
Chairman: Walter Bluhm
Minna Steinberg
Mary T. Hastie

CHRISTMAS TEA COMMITTEE

CORNELIA HARRINGTON
RENEE FREDERICK
MARGARET LEWIS
ELLEN OLDHAM
SHIRLEY GILDEA
JOAN MORRIS

MARION MacWILLIAM, CHAIRMAN
MARLENE McLAUGHLIN
ROSEMARIE MULCAHY
PAULINE MURPHY
PHYLLIS ADAMS
JEAN BABCOCK
MARVA DATES

CHRISTMAS TEA

MONDAY
DECEMBER 23, 1957

FROM 3-5 O'CLOCK

WOMEN'S LOUNGE

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Volume XII--1957

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AEA	Adult Education Association
ALA	American Library Association
BPL	Boston Public Library
BPLPSA	Boston Public Library Professional Staff Association
BRGCC	Boston Regional Group of Catalogers and Classifiers
BU	Boston University
CLA	Catholic Library Association
EB	East Boston Branch Library
GAN	General Administrative Notice
HR and CS	Division of Home Reading and Community Services
MLA	Massachusetts Library Association
MLC	Men's Librarians' Club
NE	New England
NLW	National Library Week
NP	Non-Professional Library Assistant
QCC	Quarter Century Club
R and RS	Division of Reference and Research Services
SB	South Boston Branch Library
SLA	Special Libraries Association
SORT	Staff Organizations Round Table
WE	West End Branch Library
YAC	Young Adult Council

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